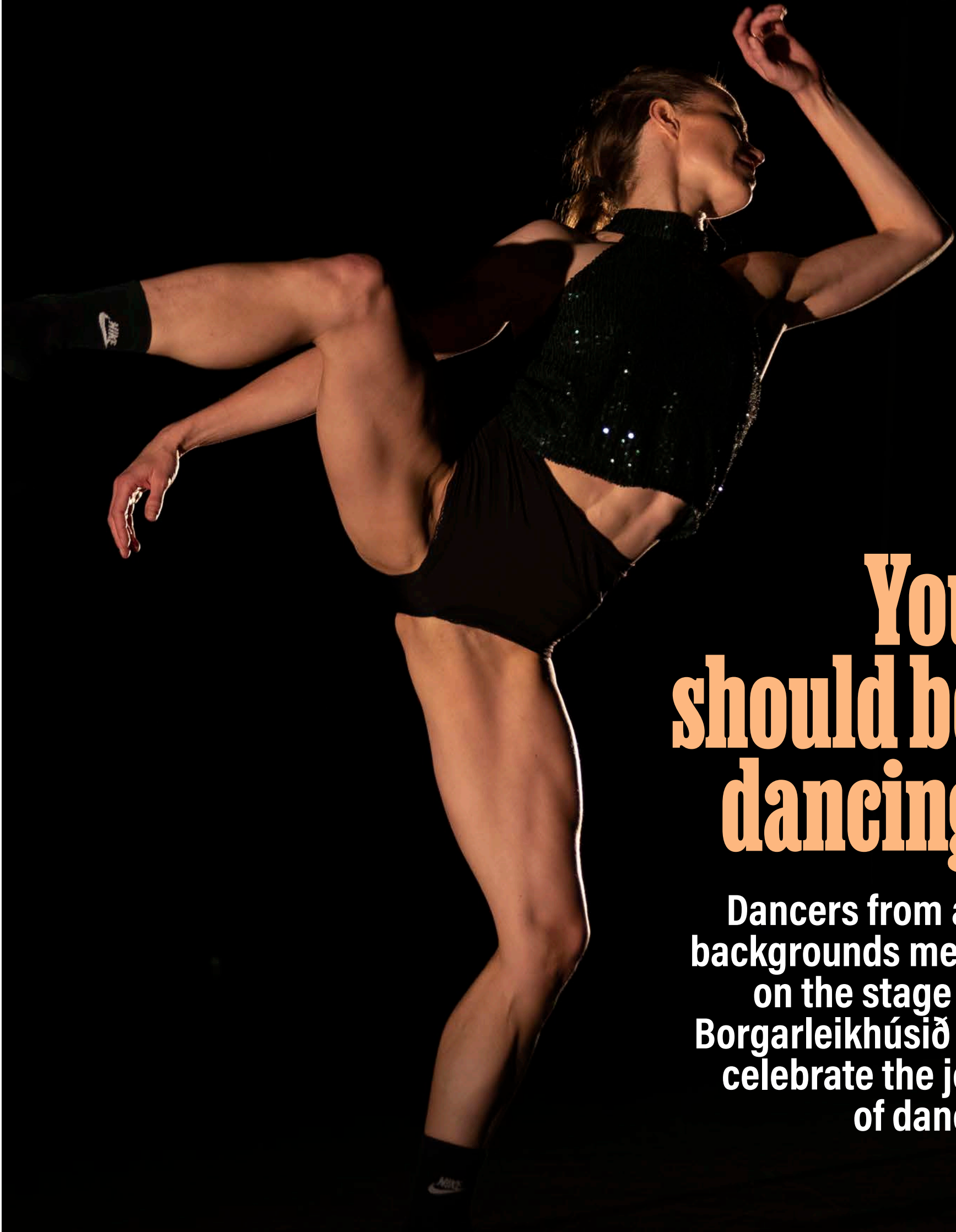


THE 

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Issue 05 | 2022 | www.gpv.is



You should be dancing

Dancers from all backgrounds meet on the stage of Borgarleikhúsið to celebrate the joy of dance

Íslandsbanki

News: How Not To Sell A State-Owned Bank

Seabear

Music: Sindri Már on their first album in 12 years

Burgers Galore 2

Food: Iceland's favourite sandwich reviewed...again

Witch's Brew

Travel: Visiting the Sorcery Museum



COVER PHOTO:

Photo: Art Bionick
Assistant: Joana Fontinha

"Ball", a new project from the Icelandic Dance Company, combines the talents of professional and amateur dancers alike. In this feature, we speak with the organisers, the pros, and the choreographer on how this intriguing project came to fruition.

First



07: Don't Feed The Falcon
11: Joyful Death
12: Design May



18: Sealbear's Back!
20: Art In Venice
22: Feminist Film Festival



23: Green Bytes
24: Track by Track: Summer Pop
26: The Icelandic Dracula Controversy



Fundamental Switch In Icelandic Politics And What To Gain From It

EDITORIAL The municipal elections are up on the 14th of May - the same day as Eurovision if that helps. The Icelandic government has finally changed the election laws, allowing thousands of new voters to participate in our democracy that boasts the longest-running parliament in the world. Now, immigrants outside of the Nordic countries can vote if they have lived in Iceland for 3 years on elections day instead of 5 years, and immigrants from the Nordic countries can vote the moment they are registered in Iceland.

This is quite some news, truth to be told. Fréttablaðið reported on the 4th of May that 40% of voters in Vík í Mýrdal, a town in the famous South of Iceland, are immigrants. We haven't seen how this affects other towns or the city of Reykjavík, but it's clear that immigrants are finally given a loud voice to be heard on the democratic stage.

This also changes politics in a fundamental way on this small self-centred island. Perhaps not overnight, but it's clear that politicians cannot ignore those 50,000+ immigrants already living in Iceland, which amounts to almost 15% of the nation. Meaning that the parties will not only focus on the needs of Icelandic citizens but also focus on the problems that immigrants face every day which Icelanders have very little if any, understanding on.

What is important is that immigrants are aware of their rights when it comes to this. The government didn't really see much reason to advertise this news after the 1st of January when the law took effect. Nor did the media pick this up until April (Reykjavík Grapevine was one of the first to report this if anyone is wondering).

Luckily, immigrants don't have to register to vote, so it won't really affect them, but it was quite telling how little emphasis the government and the politicians in Iceland place on educating immigrants about their fundamental rights.

This will change, though. There is no way denying that immigrants are becoming a much stronger part of the democratic debate. And they have the power to be heard if they chose to exercise their right to vote. The Reykjavík Grapevine believes that this will not only make immigrants' lives more bearable in the future, but it's also vital for us as a welfare community to foster those that need help to find their foothold. All countries that have done so throughout history have profited manifold.

Valur Grettilsson
Editor-in-chief



Joana Fontinha is an Aries baby expressing her soul through photography. She's been obsessed with Icelandic culture since her teens, so much that at 20 she threw herself headfirst on a plane to her long-time dream country, Iceland. Driven, energetic and unable to be still, she clumsily moves like a flash and suffers from a serious fast-talking condition.



Alice Poggio, quarter-life crisis is all too real, but Alice is making the most of it. Chasing down her numerous interests, which have shaped her into the poster child for the sometimes painful phrase: 'Master of none'. UAL graduate, volunteer, sculptor, freelance artist, wannabe MacGyver, is now eager to play her part within the landscape of Icelandic media.



Polly is a hard-working journalist by day and an enthusiastic ball-catcher by night. A five-year-old dachshund mix with an IQ of a five-year-old human, Polly is Chief Morale Officer at the Grapevine, and a regular contributor to the Grapevine Newscast on YouTube. Woof!



Josie Anne Gaitens is an arts worker, musician and writer from the Scottish Highlands. She was once erroneously referred to as the Queen of Scotland by a Malaysian newspaper and has been falsely using that title ever since. In addition to her Grapevine duties, she is currently on a mission to have a pint in every bar in 101.



Iryna Zubenko is a Ukrainian who has been working on the cross-section of media and technology for the past five years. While she is still figuring out what to do in life, this time her love for travelling, unspoiled nature and Scandi design has brought Iryna to Reykjavík. One day she'll write a non-fiction book.



Catharine Fulton is a writer who has been involved with the Grapevine for many years—possibly too many—serving as journalist, food editor and news editor before settling on copy editor. When not wielding her red pen she's often found opining on Canadian politics (professionally), and bitching about Icelandic politics (for fun).



Shruthi Basappa is one of Iceland's most knowledgeable foodies. She's covered local restaurants for years and has also been involved in various food competitions in Iceland, such as Food & Fun and more. By day, she works as an architect at Sei Studio.



Andie Sophia Fontaine has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. She was the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, an experience she recommends for anyone who wants to enjoy a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



Valur Grettilsson is an award-winning journalist, author and playwright. He has been writing for Icelandic media since 2005. He was also a theatre critic and one of the hosts of the cultural program, 'Djöflaeyjan' on RÚV. Valur is not to be confused with the dreadful football club that bears the same name.



husgje

COFFEE & MICRO BAKERY
SELJAVEGUR 2 · 101 REYKJAVÍK
OPEN EVERYDAY 8-17





Keeping Iceland
warm since 1926



See Iceland as an Icelander

Scan the code with your phone
or visit 66north.com/join

Shop at 66north.com
Follow us on Instagram @66north

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

THE REAL REYKJAVIK

[HEAD FOR THE HEART OF THE CITY & STAY LIKE A LOCAL]

From urban chic to simple & snug, each hotel offers something a little different.

center hotels

CENTERHOTELS.COM

First

The Reykjavík Grapevine
Issue 05— 2022

4



Akureyri, yesterday

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The stuff that stops the scrolling

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Art Bicornick** & **Wikimedia Commons**

NEWS

Municipal elections are coming up on May 14th, and for those of us in Reykjavík, recent polling has shown that the current majority—the Social Democrats, Pirates, Reform Party and Left-Greens—will likely continue to lead city council. If you want to go to where the real action is, look to the countryside. Which brings us to our next item on the agenda:

Local elections in Akureyri are proving more contentious than anything happening in the capital area. There are actually nine parties in the running after a total of 11 seats. This includes all seven parties represented in Parliament, the local L-list (town councils often have “lists” in the running; even Reykjavík had one, once upon a time: R-list), and Kattaframboðið. This last party, lead by artist enfant terrible Snorri Ásmundsson, has but one platform point: **reverse the ban on outdoor cats** that the town council has been trying to pass. Many of its candidates are expressly running on behalf of their cats because, at least for now, cats are ineligible to vote or run for office.

Speaking of which, the **outdoor cat ban** in Akureyri has ignited the imaginations of Icelanders across

town is not entirely known for its sea bird nesting grounds (which, do note, are not at all endangered). However, the widespread public outcry about the outdoor cat ban caused **Akureyri town council to amend the ban**, wherein cats would only be banned from being outdoors between midnight and seven in the morning. Where the total ban was to start in 2025, this ban starts at the beginning of next year.

This has not been enough to stop Kattaframboðið from running, and it appears science is on their side. Even the **Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority** have chimed in on the matter, saying that giving cats belled collars, or even large, brightly-coloured collars, is typically enough to warn birds of a cat’s approach, thereby offering a happy solution that would protect both bird life and the freedom of cats at the same time. Will this advice be taken? We may have to wait until after the elections to see. 🐾



Cats just wanna have fun



Published by

Fröken ehf.

Hafnarstræti 15,

101 Reykjavík

www.grapevine.is

grapevine@grapevine.is

Member of the

Icelandic Travel

Industry Association

www.saf.is

Printed by Landsprent

ehf.

PUBLISHER

Hilmar Steinn

Grétarsson

hilmar@grapevine.is

+354 540 3601

publisher@grapevine.is

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valur Grettisson

valur@grapevine.is

NEWS EDITOR

Andie Sophia Fontaine

andiesophia@grapevine.is

CULTURE EDITOR

John Pearson

johnpearson@grapevine.is

PHOTO EDITOR

Art Bicornick

art@grapevine.is

COPY EDITOR

Catharine Fulton

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shruthi Basappa

Tara Njála

Ingvarsdóttir

INTERNS

Alice Poggio

alice@grapevine.is

Iryna Zubenko

iryna@grapevine.is

Joana Fontinha

joana@grapevine.is

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chris Burkard

Lilja Birgisdóttir &

Ingibjörg Birgisdóttir

Joanna

Josie Anne Gaitens

Ugo Carmeni

Úlfar Gunnarsson

Tara Njála Ingvarsdóttir

SALES DIRECTORS

Aðalsteinn

Jörundsson

adalsteinn@grapevine.is

Helgi Þór Harðarson

helgi@grapevine.is

FOUNDERS

Hilmar Steinn

Grétarsson,

Hörður Kristbjörnsson,

Jón Trausti

Sigurðarson,

Oddur Óskar

Kjartansson,

Valur Gunnarsson

CONTACT US:

—> **Editorial**

+354 540 3600

editor@grapevine.is

—> **Advertising**

+354 540 3605

ads@grapevine.is

—> **Distribution**

& Subscriptions

+354 540 3604

distribution@grapevine.is

—> **Press releases**

events@grapevine.is

—> **General Inquiries**

grapevine@grapevine.is

The Reykjavík Grapevine is distributed around Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Seyðisfjörður, Þorgerðar, Isafjörður, and at key locations along Iceland’s route 1. It is also available at all major tourist attractions and information centres around the country. You may not like The Reykjavík Grapevine, but at least it’s an independent publication. None of our editorial is directed by sponsors or advertisers, and all opinions expressed are the writer’s own.

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published every month by Fröken Ltd. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers.



NATURALLY DELICIOUS

ICELANDIC LAMB - BEYOND COMPARE

The taste of Icelandic lamb is unrivaled. Our pure bred lambs graze free in the pristine wilderness of Iceland, eating luscious green grass, berries and wild herbs such as red clover, Arctic thyme, sedge, willow, thrift and angelica. The end result is a tender fine-textured meat that is both naturally rich in Omega-3 and iron and infused with the flavor of nature.

Icelandic lamb is a taste experience beyond compare.

www.icelandiclamb.is



How To Fail At Selling A Bank

Icelanders offers some important lessons

Words: Over the past few days in Parliament, no other subject has drawn as much focus as the scandalous sale of a 22.5% stake in Íslandsbanki. Minister of Finance Bjarni Benediktsson has been the target of much of the criticism, and calls for his resignation have not abated since the news first broke last month.

Photo: If the scandal has taught us anything, though, it's that the ruling coalition is dedicated to staying in power, no matter how badly one of its ministers screw up.

How it all fell apart

First, to review: Íslandsbanki came under ownership of the Icelandic treasury in the wake of the 2008 financial crash, but Bjarni has been very keen on selling shares of the bank to private interests again. The most recent sale of shares amounting to a 22.5% stake in the bank has caused considerable criticism, not least of all when it was revealed that one of the share buyers in the closed and discounted sale of

shares was none other than Bjarni's father.

While Bjarni has denied any knowledge that his father was amongst the buyers, the law on selling government shares of financial institutions outlines the process for this sale. Article 4 clearly details: "When an offer [to buy shares] is submitted, Icelandic State Financial Investments [ISFI] submits the offer to the Minister with the reasoning for the sale. The Minister decides whether the offer will be accepted or denied and signs the agreement on behalf of the government on the sale of the shares."

"Bjarni did nothing wrong"

As such, it's seemingly fair to conclude that Bjarni was either incompetent, at best, or lying when he said he had no knowledge of his father buying shares in the bank.

The opposition has been diligently calling for his resignation, and that an independent investigative body be established to closely examine the entire process of the sale. Instead, Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir has been adamant that the matter should wait for the results of examinations conducted by the Icelandic National Audit Office (INAO) and the Central Bank.

Which is likely where things will stay, despite repeated protests and recent polling showing strong public opposition to the government's position. That's politics in Iceland for you!

ASK AN Expert

Q: How To Avoid an Arctic Tern Attack?

Words: Alice Poggio / Gunnar Þór Hallgrímsson
Photo: Art Bicnick



The Arctic Tern is a fascinating and impressive bird. Over its lifetime (20-30 years) they will travel over 70,000 km every year during their roundtrip voyage between Antarctica and the Polar regions, which is considered to be the longest migratory distance in the animal kingdom. They can sleep as they glide over these vast distances, and what else? Oh yeah, they'll gladly dust off their fishing dive-bombing skills and use them to dive and peck at your head.

Here's Gunnar Þór Hallgrímsson, Professor of Zoology at the University of Iceland and ornithology expert, to tell us why, and how to avoid getting attacked.

"The first step in avoiding any type of wildlife conflict is to understand their behaviour. Terns are very common in Iceland, so it is nearly impossible to travel around and not run into them. Luckily they show no aggression towards humans except when we approach their eggs and young. Those that walk into their colonies are asking for an attack, and might leave with a few bleeding wounds on their head.

Therefore, the key to avoiding an attack is to know how to recognise their breeding sites. Terns stay in colonies that range from a few tens up to several thousand pairs. These colonies are on flat ground, commonly gravel or short vegetation, and are both busy (birds flying back and forth) and noisy. Those that are unsure if they are approaching a tern colony can pay attention to the behaviour of the birds. The terns will not suddenly all attack. When approaching the colony, those individuals having a nest closest to you will start giving a fast and aggressive alarm call that sounds like kt-kt-kt as well as the first attempts to dive at you. If possible, turn around and go the opposite way."

If not, watch where you step, and find a stick to hold above your head. This should temporarily confuse the birds, who will focus on diving onto the new highest point."

LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

Cetacean Roe

Hear ye, hear ye, biologists! A headline from today reads: The minke whale has laid six eggs. An egg laying whale? Could global warming be the cause of this bizarre anomaly? I picture eggs the size of cars floating about the surface of the water, as mama minke struggles to keep them all together, like herding buoyant, uncooperative sheep. Something like this cannot be missed. I gear up with all the warmest and most water-repellent clothing I've got, and head down to the pier. I bribe the fishermen and they let me hitch a ride; the weather is foul and I can't see anything on the horizon. Could be the fog, the rain, or it could be the unrelenting waves crashing onto the boat, making sure my face is familiar with the fish-gut covered floor, or the fact that I'm spewing my own guts out onto the murky waters, who knows. However, I'm determined to see the whale and its eggs. Fishermen walk their

sealegs past me, unfazed and seemingly unaffected. After a gruelling 12 hours, the skies open up, giving me respite from the aforementioned struggles. A faint signal returns to my phone, and I decide to read the article further. Perhaps there'll be more useful information on the whereabouts of the whale and its young. Of course. My excitement got the better of me once again. There's a picture of a raven in its nest. 'Hrefna' is Icelandic for minke whale, but it can also be the feminine version of 'Hrafn', raven in English. The article is linked to a live feed of the nest, where the raven couple have laid six beautiful blue eggs. Of course, squirmy little raven hatchlings are no whale eggs, but they do manage to ease the disappointment. **AP**

Home > News > The minke whale lays six eggs

The minke whale lays six eggs

April 20, 2022 18:59



Hrefna is on. Photo / Webcam Byko

Home > Fretur > Hrefna liggur á sex eggjum

Hrefna liggur á sex eggjum

20. apríl 2022 18:59



SMASHED BURGERS AND NASHVILLE-STYLE HOT CHICKEN IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVÍK

HAFNARSTRÆTI
101 REYKJAVÍK



GREAT MOMENTS
IN ICELANDIC
HISTORY



Why is everyone feeding the bird of prey?

The man behind the moment finally tells his story

Words:
**Andie Sophia
Fontaine**

Image:
**Screenshot &
Úlfar Gunnarsson**

Election night in Iceland, 2016. As Minister of Fisheries Kristján Þór Júlíusson, who belongs to the Independence Party, was granting a live interview at an election party in Akureyri, a young man stepped into the middle of the exchange, looked directly at the camera, and angrily demanded to know: “Why does no one remember the financial crash and Tortola?” he said, referring to the site of the offshore company where then Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson was keeping money. “Why is everyone feeding the bird of prey?” referring to the falcon, symbol of the Independence Party.

Those six seconds became a viral hit, and the young man in question, Áki Frostason, found himself in the media spotlight overnight. While he has for years declined requests for interviews, he has finally come forward to give his side of the story about that fateful night.

It all began with satire

Áki and his friend Jón Haukur Unnars-son spent the week before the elections engaging in a satirical performance pretending to be Progressive Party supporters; donning sixpence hats, wearing “farmer suits” and even getting a photo op with then Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson on

election night. However, as the election results came in, Áki began to feel the stunt wasn’t so funny anymore.

Passing the election office of the Independence Party, and Áki “spontaneously had the idea that we should go in there and express our discontent in one way or another”. Jón Haukur wasn’t entirely convinced, and so the two went their separate ways, with Áki joining the party.

“Not knowing what I was really there for, I felt a bit weird amongst all these fancy dressed people, whilst still wearing my farmer’s uniform, and not really knowing anybody in there,” he says. “As I was standing there in my confusion I

saw that a news reporter was preparing to interview Kristján Þór Júlíusson on a live TV election broadcast. When I realised this, it quite naturally came to my mind that this would be my grounds of expression, so I quickly summed up something I could say that would express my discontent in very few words. Not long after they started interviewing him I sneaked through the crowd and communicated what I had thought about directly to the camera, just managing to finish what I wanted to say before Kristján Þór gently pushed me away, softly pinching my chin while doing so.”

An overnight sensation

Áki says the act was “entirely spontaneous” and came “quite purely,” adding, “I wouldn’t hesitate if I were to magically relive the scenario even knowing that it might result in more attention that I’m generally comfortable with.”



NEW MUSIC PICKS



Umbra
Stóðum tvö í túni
Exciting days for Early Music nerds! UMBRA have released a new track from their upcoming album BJARGRÚNIR and it’s a mediaeval bop. ‘Stóðum tvö í túni’ is an old Icelandic folk song about a couple who sadly must be parted, saying farewell in a meadow. You know, usual folk stuff. Umbra’s arrangement begins with an a cappella verse before bringing in winding fiddle melodies, clarsach, and vocal harmonies. The resulting production is dark, foreboding and exhilarating. **JG**



Ári Árelíus
Sól
Whimsical and mischievous tunes pour out of Ari Árelíus’ newly released single, “Sól”. Slightly distorted guitar solos give us rock vibes, but his background in Jazz shines through here, and in a very exciting way. Several instruments create unlikely ‘friendships’, skillfully coordinated by Ari, creating a playful, dynamic and upbeat musical journey. **AP**



BSÍ
Jelly Belly
New jam from BSÍ is out! As the band’s Instagram says, “Jelly Belly invites you to a heartening group therapy session where past pains and traumas meet a 157 bpm outburst of playfulness, agitation and infectious joy.” Catchy lyrics, playful vibes, and don’t get me started on how cool the music video is. I’m adding it to my summer playlist, are you? **IZ**

UNFORGETTABLE FOOD AND
DRINK EXPERIENCE

HÉDINN | KITCHEN & BAR

Seljavegur 2, 101 Reykjavík, www.hedinnrestaurant.is



A Ball For All

In creating a new piece of work that brings together professional and amateur dancers, the choreographers of "Ball" want to start a dialogue about the nature and accessibility of dance. We head along to rehearsals to see why you, too, should be dancing.

Words: **Josie Anne Gaitens** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

On a stage in the centre of Reykjavík, 15 strangers are dancing. They move to the music in exaltation, arms outstretched, mouths wide in laughter. Hips are swaying, fists are pumping. They are people of many colours, races, backgrounds and ages, and now they are not only dancing—they are singing, in unison. The stage lights go out, and the music stops too, but their voices remain. "You should be dancing," they chant, quietly now. There is a split second of silence, and then the theatre erupts in whooping applause.

Say the words 'contemporary dance' to someone, and they may baulk at the idea. Vast misunderstandings plague this genre of art; the idea that it is pretentious, highbrow, and elitist is certainly a big turn off for many people, but so is the much more subtle belief that it's for a certain 'type' of person.

choreographed by artist duo Alexander Roberts and Ásrún Magnúsdóttir. It involves five dancers from the Company performing alongside ten other 'amateur' dancers, all from different backgrounds, who range in age from 12 to 80. Each performer brought a dance from their particular style, and the whole cast worked with Ásrún and Alexander to create a new, cohesive piece. Ball is certainly the right word for it — it's a jubilant celebration.

Creating in tandem

Alexander and Ásrún have been working together since meeting at Reykjavík Dance Festival in 2012. Early on in their

seen on stage. So this is our common..." — she pauses, searching for the right word.

"Element," adds Alexander. "Yeah, exactly," Ásrún agrees. "Our projects always come from this heart."

Talking to Alexander and Ásrún is like this. They seem to know exactly when to jump into each other's sentences with a carefully selected word, or when instead to leave a space. They listen to each other carefully, frequently ask each other, "What do you think?" It's clearly not a deflection either, but a genuine commitment to curiosity. It's not lost on me that their

age years until she completed her BA in Contemporary Dance Practices at the Iceland University of the Arts. It's this, she feels, that is partially responsible for her desire to step outside of the norms she had experienced for the twenty years of her training. On finishing her degree, Ásrún realised she was tired of the word 'contemporary', and even the very specific body shape that typified professional dancers.

Alexander, on the other hand, describes himself as having, "no background in dance at all."

"When I was younger it was probably my least favourite thing. I could even go as far as saying I probably hated it," he says, with a tiny sliver of glee just noticeable in his voice. Instead, Alex came to dance through an interest in experimental music and performance.



Behind closed doors, though, many people have a relationship with dance. The doctor who used to study ballet as a child. The pre-teens learning routines from Youtube videos in their bedrooms. The 20-something lad-about-town who loves the dancefloor on a night out. The care-home resident who remembers ballrooms with shining eyes.

This shared love of dance that is a commonality between so many people, and yet so rarely given a spotlight, is at the heart of "Ball", the latest production of Iceland Dance Company (IDC),

relationship, they saw in each other the common principles and goals that now unify and guide their artistic partnership; ideas of community, challenging norms and accepted ways of approaching art, and crucially, who they wanted to create work with.

"We're both very interested in working with non-professionals, and making space for different voices to be heard and seen," Ásrún explains. "Our aim with our work is to bring people to the stage who are maybe not often

interaction is in itself somewhat dance-like, in its subtle rhythms and turns.

Different routes to dance

Despite their shared ideologies regarding art participation, Ásrún and Alexander have completely different backgrounds when it comes to their own introductions to dance. Ásrún trained as a dancer from a young age, doing ballet and contemporary classes, and sticking with it through her teen-

"Through that I discovered choreography, and I just found what was happening in the dance and choreography field to be something I was really excited about. But my interest has always been in the thing we've been talking about already," he says, gesturing to Ásrún. "The different ways that you can engage in an art context to make space for voices, bodies, stories, or desires that otherwise there isn't a space for. For me dance just became one of the situations where that was possible."

"But," he adds wryly, "I am a complete and utter imposter."

Considering likely collaborators

Imposter or not, over the past ten years, Alex and Ásrún have built up an impressive CV of work, including many pieces which feature unlikely ‘stars’—teenagers, disabled people, even the residents of Ásrún’s apartment building. When Erna Ómarsdóttir, the artistic director of Iceland Dance Company (IDC), invited them to create a piece, the challenge was how to do so while staying true to their identity and values as artists.

“There is a question of what it means for two artists like us who are interested in working with, let’s say unlikely collaborators, to then go and work with the most likely collaborators: a group of professional dancers in a professional dance company,” acknowledges Alex.

“Our first starting point was to say, okay, well, could we expand the Company? And an obvious thought was to find a group of people who have one thing in common, which would be their love of dance — but maybe the dance that they speak about is very different from each other.”

A project like “Ball” presents—and is probably designed to present—a number of challenges. From finding people who want to be involved, to the dancers themselves contributing the

bulk of the material, to coordinating the schedules of 15 participants, the whole process is completely unlike IDC’s regular productions. The challenges arising from new ways of working don’t just impact the organisation on a structural level, they also extend to the five Company dancers involved in the piece.

“We normally only work with professional dancers in a particular artistic context,” one dancer, Félix Urbina Alejandro tells me. “But there’s also this other possibility, of creating a piece with a different vision.”

“Overall it entices some kind of challenge”

Pivoting from the way you have been trained to work for years, sometimes decades, can be not just exacting, but also emotionally confronting. It’s some-

thing Felix seems to take in his stride, however.

“Overall it entices some kind of challenge, for both the professional and the guest dancers. As contemporary dancers we’re having to adapt to different languages, styles and aesthetic visions,” he explains. But ultimately, from his perspective, the project has been a success.

“I think it does work. At the end of the process I see the vision. I see that it’s actually making a nice space to talk about something else.”

The open-minded response to the project from Felix and his four fellow colleagues from the Company was in no small way crucial to the outcome of the piece. When asked about the IDC dancers involved, Ásrún can barely describe her gratitude and admiration for them:

“They’ve been just amazing,” she says, shaking her head in wonder. “Available, generous, inviting, supportive, and so open to learning from the others.”

“Learn by doing”

This learning process, and the process of creating “Ball”, began with the guest dancers each leading a mini dance workshop for the rest of the ensemble. Alexander and Ásrún also took part in these classes themselves, in order to be fully integrated into the experience and

“I am a complete and utter imposter.”

to “learn by doing,” as Alex puts it. “We were participating in a lot of dances that I for one was really bad at,” he deadpans, eliciting a big laugh from Ásrún.

To be fair to Alexander, the range of dances the cast brought to the table would present most people with a challenge. Bollywood, Go-go, street dance and ballet are all featured styles that the ensemble have shared, learned, and will soon be performing. “The show is a lot about that experience; about someone bringing a dance and the different ways the ensemble participates in it,” Alex explains.

“When you’re on stage, you’re on stage,” Ásrún clarifies. “There are no ins and outs. So everyone is involved in everyone’s dance, sometimes more and sometimes less.”

“You can be involved by doing the exact same steps as everyone else, or you can be involved by just standing there and watching,” adds Alexander. “But you’re always present.” They both say this last part, almost in unison, apparently not even noticing, as if this happens all the time.

Iceland’s Billy Elliot?

One of the guest dancers participating in the project is 22-year-old Luis Lucas Antóniό Cabambe. Born in Angola, Luis moved to Iceland with his mother when he was three years old. Growing up, he was sporty, incredibly dedicated to football (he is a semi-professional footballer to this day, playing for KÁ Ásvellir), but always had a fascination with dance.

“I was always dancing,” Luis says. “Whenever the opportunity came, whether it was a festival outside, or a birthday, or at home or just whenever there was a dance scenario, I, you know, I got to it! I started jiggling, I started grooving.” With this he lifts his fists and shimmies his shoulders in demonstration with a broad smile and a refreshing lack of self-consciousness, even though we’re sat in the middle of a busy cafe.

Things changed for Luis when his family moved from Selfoss to Keflavík when he was 13. At this point he was seeing more and more dance on TV through shows like “Britain’s Got Talent”. Initially, he wanted to learn how to

do The Robot, but unfortunately, opportunities in Keflavík weren’t forthcoming.

“The only dance option I had there was ballet,” Luis tells me. “At first I thought, there’s no way I’m going to do ballet, because I’m a guy, and I was afraid of the other guys in my soccer



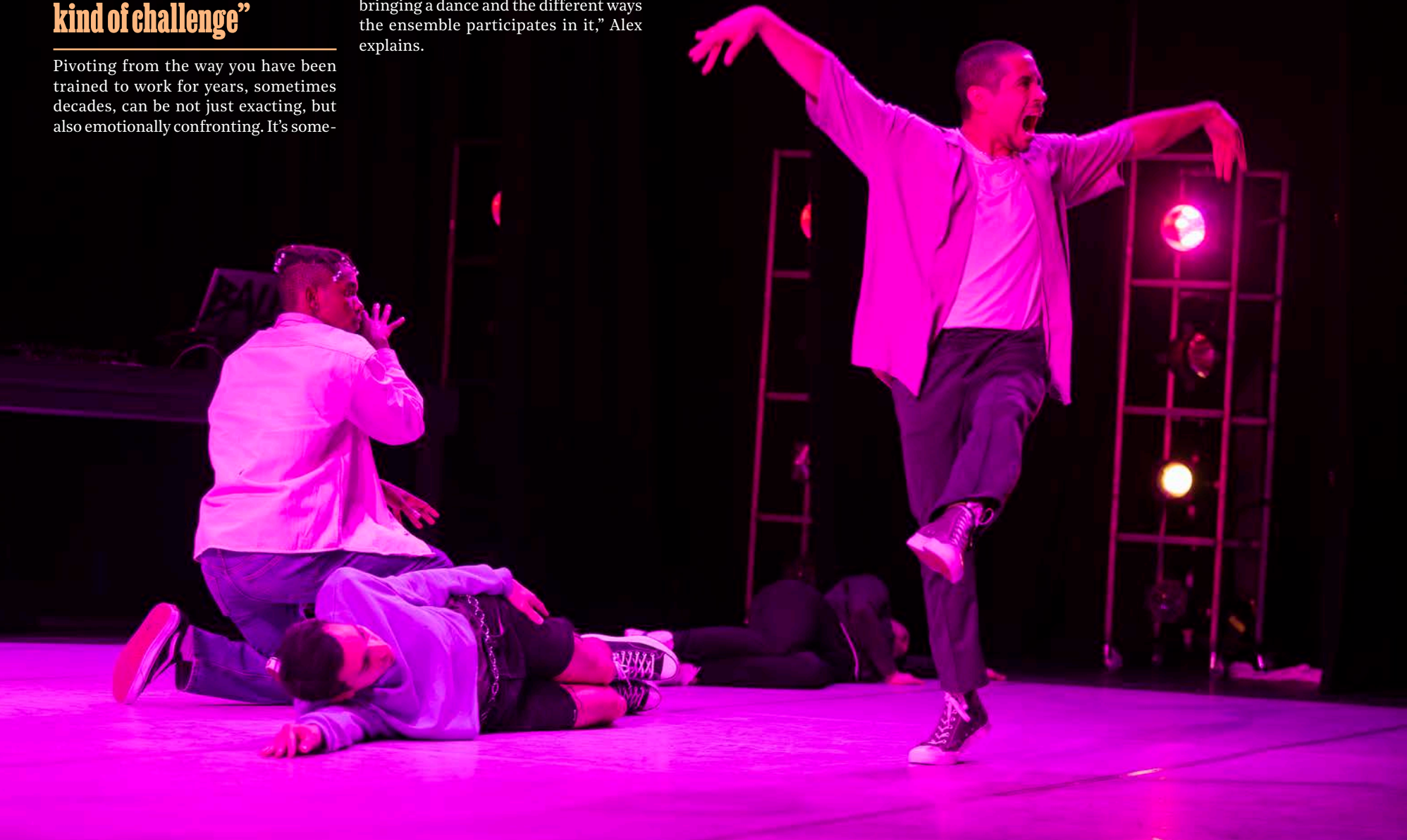
“You get a lot of joy from spending time with people who are different to you, and listening and learning from them” — Choreographer Alexander Roberts

team making fun of me. But eventually I just went for it.”

As Luis suspected, starting ballet lessons was not an easy process for a 13-year-old boy. For a long time he was the only male in the class, and he was indeed ribbed, albeit in a good-natured way, by his fellow football teammates. But there were plus-sides too; Luis’s coaches were very supportive of his decision, and he became firm friends with his classmates, describing the girls he danced with as “like family.” In addition, it quickly became clear that Luis had both the talent and dedication to become very, very good. At the end of the year he performed in the school’s annual show, with his ecstatic mother in the audience filming every move.

Dancing with the stars

Life for Luis took another fateful turn when the family then moved over to Breiðholt, which happened to be the home of the only street dance school in the country. Shortly after the move, Luis remembers watching an Icelandic talent contest on TV, where he was enraptured by the performance of the winning act, dancer Brynjar



Dagur. Discovering that Brynjar Dagur attended the same dance school near where he lived, Luis quickly began to take all of the classes he possibly could, practising for hours in front of the mirror in his bedroom.

“It was the coolest thing I’ve ever seen,” says Luis, of Brynjar’s performance. “After that it was like, yeah, I’m going to be like that guy.”

Luis excelled. Not only did he become good enough to form a duo with his hero, Brynjar Dagur, but the pair then travelled together to Portugal for The Dance World Cup—which they subse-

“I’ve realised that in the dance community, there’s not a lot of money in this work,” he says honestly. “So I’m doing what I do for the love, for my passion for dancing.”

Covid, and the great hiatus

It’s this passion for dance that Ásrún and Alexander have spent the last two years of this project trying to both explore and corral, somehow. Of course, it goes without saying that the timeline for this piece was never intended to be two years long. When I ask the

joy at being finally able to once again attend cultural and social events, to rub shoulders with a stranger in a theatre.

Who is dance for?

But there is still the question of who this piece is for. As a collaborative and participatory piece, it is clearly open and accessible, and this is something Alex and Ásrún have thought about in detail when designing the project. But when it comes to the performances themselves, will potential audiences be able to look past the word ‘contemporary’, and find something that reflects themselves?

Felix hopes so. “There are always going to be some things that are more open to everybody than others. ‘Ball’, since its inception, has always been about society, community, and people. So I think it is really accessible. Also, it’s really a showcase of many styles, so people can just come to enjoy very beautiful dance.”

Ásrún and Alexander share similar sentiments. “I just hope people will see this is possible,” Ásrún says.

“I see a lot of beauty in the people on stage,” adds her partner. “There’s a lot of honesty and sincerity and they’re giving a lot of themselves to the audience, and to each other as well. What you’re going to get is this experience of seeing a group of dancers that are having this ‘ball’ together, they’re really having this party on stage together. And the audience are kind of being invited to join in on that situation and that atmosphere. So that special energy has been created between that group of dancers on the stage is one that in the course of the show, kind of envelops the audience and the audience are invited into that experience too.”

A little bit for everyone

It’s a beautiful idea of symbiosis between the dancer and the watcher, but I wonder if it’s one that Luis, and his footballer friends, would connect with. When I ask him if the other players on his team could come and enjoy this performance, he thinks hard before answering me.

“I think so,” he says, slowly, still considering. “Yeah, I do. What makes this different is that there are so many styles. There’s so much flavour. So I think that whoever comes, there’s a little bit for everyone.”

“We’re so flexible, we’re all so different,” he adds, beginning to gesticulate as he really gets behind his answer. “It’s like going to a music festival with a lot of different artists. Maybe not everyone will enjoy every single part of it, but I think everyone will at least enjoy some of it.”

He admits, however, that despite his own love of dance, he’s not always sure how to encourage people who don’t feel a connection with cultural activities to attend performances like this. But he is adamant that dance has changed his life, and he strongly feels this connection with fellow dancers.

“I just really think that dancers in general, no matter where they come from, they have this advanced range, they have this better way of understanding things,” he says passionately.

“You know, some people say dance is a sport, but really, for me, it’s art. It’s a way of expression, it’s a way of connecting emotionally to whatever that is that you feel.”

“Dance is like fingerprints”

Luis is waving his hands so wildly now that he accidentally sends his mobile phone flying off the table, and I am trying to subtly secure my wobbly coffee cup with a vice-like grip. He catches the phone before it hits the floor with predictably good reflexes, and shoots me a beatific grin as he pulls his thoughts together.

“A lot of people come up to me and say, ‘Luis, I wish you could teach me how to dance in the club.’ But the moves that I teach you? You won’t necessarily connect to them in the way I do when I’m dancing at the club.”

“Dance is like fingerprints,” he lands on, finally. “It connects to each person in their own way. Nobody has the same understanding, or feeling through dance because you kind of have to make it your own. But what we all have in common is this possibility of connecting to it, you know? You have to just explore it.”

“Dance is like fingerprints; it connects to each person in their own way.”



*“Contemporary dance is a scary term. It’s big and broad yet it still doesn’t say too much.”
—Choreographer Ásrún Magnúsdóttir*

quently won. Still only in his early twenties, Luis has now won several awards, performed on TV numerous times and travelled to multiple countries to take part in dance workshops and competitions.

He’s a self-described yes man. Although he is currently focussing more on his football career than his dancing, he tries to fit in dance projects whenever he can. “I want to meet new people and I want to be part of a project that’s fun,” Luis tells me.

choreographers if they had to stop at points because of Covid, Ásrún sighs and replies, “many times.” The cast was first put together in early 2020, and they’d even gathered for a couple of meetings and an initial photoshoot before the first hiatus. But Ásrún also points out that there were silver linings to this unplanned extended process:

“You don’t start from scratch. We keep everything we do in our pockets and then we bring it back. Sometimes it can be fine to have these breaks, actually, because you have time to rest in it and think about it and realise what parts are better than others.”

In some ways it feels particularly fitting that this piece that so specifically celebrates the joy of bodies and movement in space together, and the unspoken relationships between strangers, will come into being just at the moment of the great re-opening of the world. Those who attend “Ball” will have the opportunity to meet the joy of the dancers on stage with their own



Happening

Find today's events in Iceland! Download our free listings app - APPENING on the Apple and Android stores



EUROVISION!!!!!!!!!!

Eurovision night with Gógó Starr

May 14th - 19:00 - Þjóðleikhúskjallarinn - 3900ISK

Not sure where to watch the Grand Final of Eurovision this year? Our suggestion: book a table for the viewing night hosted by drag performers Gógó Starr, Agatha P., Starina, Twinkle Starr and Mr.Mrs. Rammstückerlein. The more glitter you have on you, the better—there will be a best costume competition, as well as a pop quiz and Eurovision-themed bingo. Beware: a fabulous night lies ahead! **IZ**



Stay Calm & Drop Acid

ACIDFEST

March 10th - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - 2,900 ISK

Liverpool Psychedelic Society and Creation Dream Machine will be hosting a 3-day festival in the remote fishing village of Rif, located a 2.5 hour drive from Reykjavík. ACIDFEST will feature jam sessions, live music events (from artists representing the UK, USA, Sweden and Iceland), photo exhibition, and more. If trippy visuals is something that excites you, check out this event. Following the ACIDFEST in Rif, there'll also be a one-day event at KEX hostel on May 28th. **IZ**



Waxing and Waining

Rufus Wainwright

March 18th & 19th - 20:00 & 22:30 - Harpa - 5,990 to 12,990 ISK

Grammy-nominated American-Canadian singer, composer and songwriter Rufus Wainwright is coming to Iceland for a concert at Harpa Silfurberg. In the past, Rufus has collaborated with music industry legends such as Elton John and Robbie Williams. In Reykjavík, he'll be performing together with Jacob Mann on piano and Brian Green on guitar. Iceland-resident and musician John Grant will be supporting the concert. Why not treat yourself to one of the first big concerts since the pandemic? **IZ**

CULTURE NEWS

Börninn og Dauðinn 60x40



Children And The Joyful Death

The obscure humour of Prándur in his depiction of Iceland's most famous cemeteries.

Words: **Valur Grettisson** Photos: **Prándur Þórarinnsson**

Prándur Þórarinnsson is hands-down one of Iceland's most unique visual artists. He was an apprentice of Odd Nerdrum and has used his unique combination of national romanticism and Renaissance style to both capture the political landscape and to depict exactly what Icelanders think about Grýla. Spoiler alert: She eats children in a very visual way.

Obscure humour

But Prándur's newest exhibition in Neskirkja in West Reykjavík is a bit different. All of the artwork is connected to Hólavallakirkjugarður cemetery and death is all around—and so is Prándur's humour.

"I live at Ljósavallagata. I can see the garden from my window, and I felt like it was unneces-

sary to look further for inspiration," he answers when asked why he chose the cemetery as a subject.

The Watchmen

Prándur was offered to have an exhibition at Neskirkja and he says it's fitting to have an exhibition about the cemetery, but the show is simply called "Í Hólavallagarði" (In Hólavallagarden).

"It felt appropriate to approach death, where funerals and wakes are held."

Prándur says that the paintings are the result of research that he really enjoyed. For example, there is a painting of the not-that-well-known Guðrún Oddsdóttir, the watchman of the garden. She is reminiscent of Icelandic

ghost folklore, which was quite strong until the mid 20th century. In Prándur's painting, she meets a famous feminist and one of Iceland's suffragettes, Þorbjörg Sveinsdóttir, who was a midwife and fought relentlessly for women's right to seek education.

Doomed to roam around

"It's really a peculiar folklore about the watchmen," Prándur says, but it is believed that the first person that is buried in an Icelandic cemetery is doomed to roam around and keep the dead away from the living. It's considered almost a curse for the one who has to do the job, and the next of kin have to be asked if they agree to this. Part of the folklore is that the watchmen will not rot in their grave; they will crawl out at night and keep everyone—the dead that is—in their place.

Play with the Grim Reaper

Among the other paintings, there is one of children talking to the Grim Reaper joyfully. It's a striking image and an eerie depiction of children and death.

"The idea came from a piece of performance art that Ragnar Kjartansson did in 2004," Prán-



Prándur Þórarinnsson, an artist at work



Guðrún Odds tekur á móti Thorbjörgu Sveins 95x95cm

dur explains. Ragnar dressed up as the Grim Reaper and played joyfully with children, breaking interesting barriers between children and death in his performance art.

Ragnar did this performance when he was still a student, but Prándur was taken by the idea that the Grim Reaper plays with children. Once again we can see glimpses of Prándur's wonderful humour, as well as a playful take on how children are almost never associated with death in this way.

Almost sold out

Prándur has a lot on his plate, but has already sold a few paintings afrom the show, although it hasn't formally opened yet. It's expected that the rest will sell out on Sunday, when the opening will be held. So if you want to buy a painting by this odd genius, you better be early. **IZ**

The opening will be held on Sunday in Neskirkja, Hagatorgi 107, Reykjavík, at 11:00

“Our aim is to start conversations and to be inspiring.”

Experimenting with textile offcuts

Sigurðardóttir. They invite us to observe their exploration into the possibilities available when it comes to recycling and reshaping mineral wool, as well as its waste materials, which would otherwise be sent to landfill. Mineral wool is one of the few building materials produced in Iceland. The substance it's made from hardens during the manufacturing process, turning into a stone which resembles obsidian.

been working alongside designer Arnar Ingi to explore how the life cycle of a product can be extended by straying away from its original role. ERM (sleeve in English) is the result of this investigation, a chair made out of a single metal rod, covered with the sleeves of discarded puffer jackets. Additionally, Studio Flétta will be showcasing their experiments with textile offcuts from 66°North in an effort to upcycle waste materials.

Run!

A new initiative by the Architect Association of Iceland is sure to get your heart beating faster. They will hold four runs through Reykjavík, where they will guide you through the complexities of the city. You will be able to see the city through the architects' eyes, and understand the reasoning behind layout and build choices. There are runs for every level and ability, so no excuses! There will be a warm up 15 minutes before the run, so make sure to be there ahead of time and avoid cramps, you wouldn't want to fall behind and miss this fun event.

Hot tubs for birds: yay or nay?

Iceland is home to thousands of bird species. But while humans can enjoy the variety of swimming pools and hot tubs the country has to offer, birds, unfortunately, cannot. Would they want to though? With a project titled 'Bibi & blabla', Studio Allsber intends to translate some of the products humans use in their daily lives to the bird world, and, hence, strengthen our relationship with the flying creatures.



Nostalgic retro flair from a slow fashion brand

A clothing garment that stands the test of time is what the Icelandic slow fashion brand AS WE GROW truly believes in. The brand's clothes are passed on from generation to generation, bearing sentimental value and linking people together. Made responsibly with sustainably-sourced materials, AS WE GROW encourages people to buy fewer items, but of better quality. Check out the brand's spring-summer collection at DesignMarch, along with the opening of their brand-new showroom.



66°North supports innovation

66°North is extremely present in this year's DesignMarch festival, collaborating with different designers on projects all relating to waste in the textile industry. Valdís Steinarsdóttir will be exhibiting her research on a technique which would eliminate cloth scraps, by using a natural liquid material that holds the desired shape when poured into a mould. She has also



The future of hunting

Apparently, mushroom leather is a thing now. Intrigued? A local brand Góð Bráð has designed hunting garments (vests, gloves, bags, and more) made from recycled materials and mushroom leather. The project promotes respect for nature and sustainable hunting—by choosing mushrooms over animals.

Local students bring on a fashion show

It's not an easy time for the fashion industry—the pandemic has taught us to appreciate pyjamas and sweatpants, and overall the trend is to consume less, especially when it comes to fast fashion. Come to the Iceland University of Arts Graduate Fashion Show to find out what fashion students have to offer the industry in these fast-changing times.

Designers and ambassadors unite

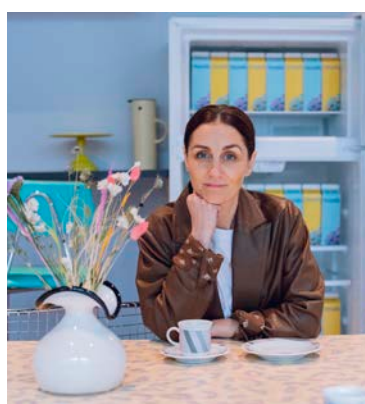
Design Diplomacy is a unique series of events hosted by DesignMarch together with local diplomats. The ambassadors of Norway, Denmark, Finland and the USA will open their doors to designers, as well as the public, for insightful talks and a special card game. On the programme: design-centred conversations, musings on the future of knitwear, explorations of ceramic artists, ways how architecture could solve global problems and more. 🍷

DesignMarch will take place on May 4-8 in multiple locations in the capital area.
Full programme: designmarch.is

Celebrating Imagination

DesignMarch is back in full swing

Words: **Alice Poggio & Iryna Zubenko** Photos: **Provided by DesignMarch**



The spotlight has shifted onto actual design processes and innovative methods. Álfrún adds, “Designers are trying to come up with new solutions to the big problems the world is facing now, such as overpopulation and shortcomings of the healthcare system. I think this DesignMarch will reflect that.”

Because going through the hundreds of exhibits can be a little overwhelming, we've gone ahead and picked out some of the highlights of what's on offer this year.

Remote working 2.0

“Consequences” is a game created by product designers Ari Jónsson and Þórður Jörundsson. The game has predetermined rules that govern the design of the furniture, but each player does not get to see what the other person is creating. Half the furniture cannot stand on its own and is useless until it is exhibited with its counterpart. “Consequences” is an experiment which puts us alongside the designers, holding our breath as two pieces become one.

“Einangrun” Insulation/Isolation

Farmers Market will introduce new garments made from Icelandic wool fur, in line with the key values of the brand: use of natural fabrics, craftsmanship and respect for the environment. The product line was developed in collaboration with Ístex, a wool processing company owned by Icelandic farmers. The wool used for the faux fur is uncoloured, leftover wool that cannot be used for knitting yarn. Another exciting use of waste materials, could this finally be a worthy challenger to real fur? We hope so.



Bye Covid-19, hello Coat-19

The coronavirus pandemic has undoubtedly contributed to the world's plastic pollution. With piles of single-use masks that need to be changed every few hours and are rarely disposed of properly, the scale of the problem is almost absurd. Artists Tobia Zambotti and Aleksa Saastamoinen want to draw attention to pandemic-related pollution with a puffer jacket made with about 1500 disinfected disposable masks collected from the streets of Reykjavík.



Beautiful waste

This exhibition showcases research on mineral wool, an ongoing project by Studio Flétta and Kristín

Iceland's largest design festival, DesignMarch, is about to return for its 14th year running—in May. Although the pandemic forced it to bend to the numerous restrictions over the past two years, it did not break, and excitement is at an all time high for the event's return. Few could be looking forward to it more, however, than Head of PR and Communication **Álfrún Pálsdóttir**: “For the past two years, we've been on this Covid-19 roller coaster, but DesignMarch 2022 is going to happen full blast. We are really excited to just tell people to go out, explore, talk, hug and to have a nice time. It will be a celebration of imagination,” she says.

Unlike most design events, many of the contributors to DesignMarch are in attendance at their own exhibits, something that Álfrún believes is key to the festival's success. “Our aim is to start conversations and to be inspiring,” she explains. “It's not just about designing objects, but also about design thinking.”

Sustainability has arguably been the leading topic in recent times, and it played an important role in the past editions of DesignMarch. “A few years ago, everybody was talking about sustainability,” Álfrún clarifies. “That was the main focus. But now it's kind of a given.”

Farmers Market

ICELAND



OUR STORES IN REYKJAVÍK: FARMERS & FRIENDS



Laugavegur 37



Hólmastóð 2 / Grandi

WWW.FARMERSMARKET.IS

Best of Reykjavík



THE FIRST DUMPLING
HOUSE IN ICELAND

DRAGONDIMSUM.IS



BERGSTADASTRÆTI 4,
REYKJAVÍK

EYRAVEGUR 1,
SELFOSS



Birds (not actual size)



Birds, birds, birds

Óðinsgata 11, 101 Reykjavík

Reykjavík Street Art Walk Without A Guide

Must-see street art, free and in walking distance (for the most part)

Words: **Alice Poggio & Iryna Zubenko** Photos: **Alice Poggio**

Street art in Reykjavík has a lot to offer. From Skólavörðustígur, also known as the Rainbow Street, to numerous murals and graffiti along the shopping street Laugavegur and beyond. Unremarkable buildings, hidden alleyways, and even industrial infrastructure burst with colour here. On one of the (rare) sunny days, we took a stroll to find our favourite street art pieces in the capital.

Birdwatching in the centre of the city might be tricky, but we suggest you come and see the colourful piece on Óðinsgata 11 to prove yourself wrong. The artists—Stefán Óli and Arnór Kári—have become active members of the Reykjavik street art scene in recent years. Many of their works bring nature closer to the city, and this one is no exception. Stefán Óli and Arnór Kári are also the artists behind the giant bird mural in Sundahöfn. Another beautiful piece of street art, but quite a walk from the centre—beware! **IZ**

Quirky and fun

Bjargarstigur 15, 101 Reykjavík

“BEST BURGER OF REYKJAVÍK” 2021

YUZU



TRY OUR SIGNATURE
BURGER “YUZU CHILI”

@YUZUBURGER

WWW.YUZU.IS



Dream of the ocean

Laugavegur 159, 105 Reykjavík

If in Hlemmur waiting for a bus, you should be able to spot a peaceful vision of blue and green peeking through the grey just up the road. This stretch of Laugavegur street has considerably more noise pollution. Cars consistently zoom past, incessant clanging, blaring, and crashing from nearby construction inevitably manage to drown out your thoughts and irritate you. The piece's mood is a complete contrast to its surroundings, perhaps intentionally. Cool and calming hues invite you to the ghostly peace to be found beneath the waves. Muffled ringing and nothingness. The artist, Raffaella Brizuela Sigurðardóttir, was inspired by an old Persian story from the Bahá'í Faith as well as Icelandic culture and its relationship to the sea. She capably leads you on a journey of visual escape we highly recommend. **AP**



Charming chaos

Týsgata 8, 101 Reykjavík

At first glance, Arnar Ásgeirsson's work comes off as eerie and dark. From a distance, the stark contrasts catch your eye, and as you step closer, so much more is revealed. Incredibly minute details, layers of comedy and humour, all wonderfully nonsensical. Arnar embraces chaos and portrays it in a way that draws the viewer in, and makes us feel as comfortable as he is with it. The limited use of colour helps guide our focus to the subjects portrayed. The piece is located on a wall facing a lovely little town square, with plenty of seating areas for you to settle in and enjoy this work of art, which has more than enough to keep you entertained for hours. **AP**

This vibrant and graphic piece is the result of a collaboration between DABSMYLA—an Australian husband and wife visual art duo—and established graffiti artist, Kems. It has been around for ages (since 2016, to be precise), but it continues to brighten up an otherwise slightly grey city on both sunny and gloomy days. It is just a stone's throw away from the previous bird piece. There's a bench nearby, so you can sit down, enjoy a takeaway coffee or whatnot, and contemplate art. Just like you would do in a museum! **IZ**

Check out this map for more street art ideas in the capital area: <http://bit.ly/wall-art-reykjavik>

May 6th — June 2nd

In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



Words: [Alice Poggio](#)
Photo: [Chris Burkard](#)

Erlendur Thor Magnusson

Erlendur Thor Magnusson is an Icelandic photographer with a 20-year-long obsession with surfing in any weather conditions. He humbly mentions that he has also “dabbled” in filmmaking. He is featured in one of Redbull’s ‘Chasing The Shot’ episodes, and numerous other short documentaries. Elli is currently very excited about a personal photography project of his, which involves plastic from the Icelandic fishing industry that often washes up onto the shores. Here’s how he would spend his perfect day.

Morning surf, obviously

My perfect morning in Reykjavik would be to wake up and make a

cup of coffee—I like the Aeropress espresso—and to check the weather and wave forecast to see that everything looks good for a morning surf. I would then go surfing with my wife for a couple of hours. If I could pick the surfing conditions myself, I would have head-high waves, light winds, sunny skies, and for us to be the only ones there. We would then drive back to Reykjavik for a nice lunch and a coffee at The Coocoo’s Nest. We usually don’t eat breakfast, but ironically enough, their breakfast burritos are our favourites.

Work? No thanks, another swim please

On a normal day I would go to my office and do some work, but since I’m imagining my dream day, we would

just head over to Lágafellslaugin Mosfellsbær to enjoy a combination of hot tub, sauna and cold tub.

Foodie’s dinner crawl

For dinner we would then walk around downtown Reykjavik and grab small things here and there. For example, tacos at La Poblana—we recommend the campechano or carnitas—then maybe some beef baozi dumplings at Dragon Dim Sum, and wings at Brewdog.

Beer with friends

At this point, I would go and meet some friends for beers at Kaffi Laugarlækur and hang out, so I could have a short walk home afterwards. ♡

EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

ON THE ULTIMATE FLYING RIDE



FlyOver
ICELAND

OPEN EVERY DAY | flyovericeland.com



PORT9

WINEBAR



VEGHÚSASTÍGUR 9A

Open Tuesday - Sunday

ESTD 1876

BERINGER

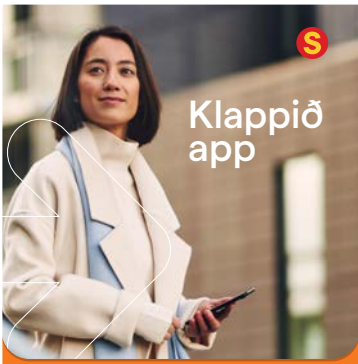
MAT

BAR

Hverfisgata 26

matbar.is | +354-788-3900








Klappið app

The official ticketing app for public buses in the Reykjavík capital area

Search for "Klappið" in the App Store or on Google Play.



STEREO

Cocktails
Craft Beer
Vermouth Menu



PHOTOS FROM ICELAND

Skólavörðustígur 22



Wine bar & food

VÍNSTÚKAN
TÍU SOPAR

The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavík Grapevine City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-Of awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

Dining

1. Blackbox Pizza

Borgartún 26

Blackbox is a solid competitor for best pizza pie in the city. Thin crust, inventive toppings, delivery—what else could you ask for? We'd particularly recommend the Parma Rucola, which serves up all the parma ham goodness you could wish for. For those journeying outside the city, they've also got a location in Akureyri.

2. Chikin

Ingólfsstræti 2

This ain't your mama's KFC. No, Chikin—Reykjavík's first dedicated hot chicken and bao joint—manages to be at once both totally sophisticated foodie cuisine and also food that'll definitely fill the hole in your soul you usually quench with a spicy Twister. So grab some chicken with pickled daikon, shiitake mushrooms, miso mayo and lots of other delicacies.

3. Hosiló

Hverfisgata 12

A newcomer on the block who has certainly made a big stir! Hosiló is a small spot—seating around 30 patrons at full capacity—that offers an eclectic rotating menu of local fresh food. The offerings feature meals from around the world, from French cuisine to Northern Africa goodness, and much more.

4. Kaffi Laugalækur

Laugarnesvegur 74a

For many a young parent, the cafe stop at the end of a long stroll is the proverbial pot of gold. Kaffi Lækur is especially popular with new parents, with a special kids' corner for crawlers and drawers. The generously topped chicken and pesto 'litla gula hænán' and the 'shawaramabake' are our top lunch picks. Also, if you're keto, don't miss 'em,

5. Brauð & Co

Frakkastígur 16

First off—don't miss Brauð & Co's pretzel croissants unless you really don't want to have a spiritual experience. We also swear by their "snuður"—cinnamon bread rolls smothered with a sugary glaze. They take it a step further and stuff the classics with blueberries and whatnot, eliciting inappropriate satisfied moans. Get there early to snatch a warm one.

6. Snaps

Pórsgata 1

Year after year, regardless of how many restaurants open and close, Snaps remains a timeless classic. Be it lunch, date-night dinner, lazy weekend brunches or a boisterous Christmas work party, Snaps is the perfect venue for a boatload of memories. Steady standbys include the deeply savoury onion soup (with a union of its own we suspect), the house-made fries with crispy rosemary that begs to be a meal on its own, and a textbook crème brûlée topped with an envious snap.

7. Hlemmur Mathöll

Hlemmur

Once a bus station and now a bustling food hall—we love a repurposed space. Hlemmur Mathöll is a classic in the Reykjavík dining scene, with everything from Vietnamese street food to delicious gelato to old school Italian pizza present. Yum.

8. Dragon Dim Sum

Bergstaðastræti 4

For those of us longing for dim sum in Reykjavík, cravings have often had to be satisfied with daydreams of visits past to dim sum houses of Chinatowns abroad. But then Dragon Dim Sum arrived with their fare, which is the perfect marriage between Icelandic ingredients and labouring of Asian dim sum passion. Don't miss their bao or shao mai, and don't worry, their carrot vegan dumplings are also sublime.

9. Lamb Street Food

Grandagarður 7

Pure Icelandic lamb with a middle eastern twist—that's what you'll get at this juicy local eatery where pure kebab is served up with no processed meat. For all you vegans though, never fear, the fresh made salads and hummus are equally wowing. This ain't your regular kebab spot.

10. Laundromat

Austurstræti 9

Have you ever wanted to have lunch and do your laundry in a public place? You're in luck. The Laundromat Cafe on Austurstræti is open (again) for business. Whether you want brunch, a sandwich, or a burger, they have a quality selection of food made to order. Their brunch ain't nothing to scoff at either,

11. Nauthóll

Nauthólsvegur 106

Just behind the University of Reykjavík overlooking the Nauthólsvík geothermal beach is Nauthóll, the definition of a hidden summertime gem. The restaurant is one of those places that downtown Reykjavík rats might call "too far away," but with the advent of public scooters, you can arrive there in style in but 15 minutes. Without hyperbole, there probably isn't a better outdoor view in the city than this place—and their Scandinavian fare is good too.

Drinking

12. Prikið

Bankastræti 12

Prikið is the bar version of the "I'm going to bed early tonight vs. me at 3 a.m." meme. At 22:00 you'll have a bunch of regulars relaxing at the bar sipping brews, but arrive at 3:00 and it's Project X. Their outdoor smoking area should be applauded too. Hang out long enough and you'll be sure to buddy up and find an afterparty.

13. Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

If the cancellation of literally everything is damping your glamorous rock and roll style, Röntgen at Hverfisgata 12 will cure what ails you. This place—a relative newcomer—is already a stalwart in the bar scene, with a stellar atmosphere, great drinks and a lineup of the best DJs in Iceland. Just remember to raise a glass to the good doctor Wilhelm Röntgen (who discovered x-rays) while sipping your tipples.

14. Húrra

Tryggvagata 22

Húrra is BACK! ARE YOU SERIOUS? YES, WE ARE! After a despairing absense from the local scene, the beloved favourite has returned with a vengeance. Seriously—in the few weeks they've been open, the bar/venue has already had shows from heavyweights like Skrattar, Skóffín and Mannveira. Stop by for vibes, alochol and other fun things like that you know. Also, their bathroom renovation is pretty crazy.

15. Veður

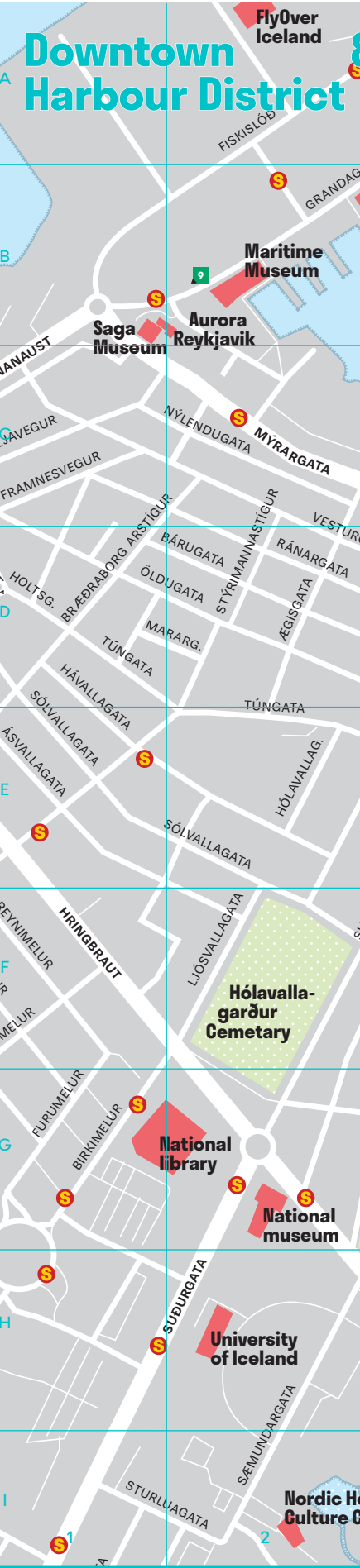
Klapparstígur 33

This charming, low-key, hole-in-the-wall serves up some great cocktails and a dedicated crowd that has grabbed the heart of the Grapevine, even though we are a magazine and not humans. If you feel fine relaxing and chatting, it's still a nice and sophisticated bar, but they've also got an edge. Sometimes they play punk music. \m/

16. Íslenski Barinn

Ingólfsstræti 1a

Of the many nation-themed drinking



establishments in Reykjavík, The Icelandic Bar is the only one that is also a restaurant. Go there at night and maybe you'll meet an elf or Björk or something—that's all people know about Iceland anyway.

17. Mál og Menning

Laugavegur 18b

Wait, a new bar/music venue? Yup! And you thought the pandemic had destroyed all culture in this town. But never fear—Bókabúðir Máls og Menningar is here. There's live music most nights, from DJs to jazz, and during the day, the legendary Bókin is operating from the basement. Seriously—we anticipate this place will be a game-changer in the local cultural scene. Takk fyrir.



ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken in original PAKISTANI curries

www.shalimar1s

SHALIMAR PAKISTANI CUISINE

AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, 101 REYKJAVÍK ☎ 551 0 292

Tandoori dishes & Nan breads

Kebabs, Samosas & Vegetarian specialities





New In Town ☆



Sirkus

Lækjargata 6B, 101 Reykjavík

OK, it may not be totally new, but it's definitely back in town, at long last. After shutting its doors in 2007, the legendary and beloved Sirkus is now reclaiming Reykjavik nightlife, only this time at Lækjargata. The reincarnated locale hopes to bring back its famous party vibes and acclaim with live music, Mama Rama Indian food, and classic games of darts and pool in the basement. Go experience Icelandic nostalgia at its best. [AP](#)

D

12 Tónar

Welcome to our legendary record store, label, venue, bar/café

Open every day of the week



Skólavörðustígur 15

E



HAFNARTORG | SMÁRALIND
@MAIKAIREYKJAVIK WWW.MAIKAI.IS

F

SMASHED BURGERS AND HOT CHICKEN IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK

HAFNARSTRÆTI 101 REYKJAVÍK



I

KAFFIBARINN

Happy hour until 19:00 All days
Cocktail hour all days between 20:00 and 23:00
DJ's all Weekends
[www.facebook.com/kaffibarinn](#)

18. Dillon

Laugavegur 30

A mix between grunge and classy, Dillon Whiskey Bar dominates their little stretch of Laugavegur. Crammed most nights with rockers, metalheads, and tourists looking for a place to mumble AC/DC songs into their beer, Dillon boasts a wide selection of over 100 whiskies and hosts some of Iceland's best hard rock bands on the weekends.

19. Petersen svítan

Austurstræti 12

The sun is finally out, which means it's time for your annual pilgrimage to Petersen svítan. Never been? Well, make sure to bring your sunglasses

because this place has one of the best views in Reykjavik and also very fashionable clientele. Look over the city and have a beer in almost entirely direct sunlight (!!!!!!!!!!!).

Shopping

20. Íslenska Húðflúrstofan

Ingólfsstræti 3

This classic shop caters to all styles, with a roster of artists that serve up everything from realism to new-school and more. We'd particularly recommend the hand-poked pieces by Habba (@habbanerotattoo). Not only are they gorgeously ornate in that straight-out-of-800-AD-way, but they might save you from spirits.

21. Nielsen Sérverzlun

Bankastræti 4

Way more than your average design store, Nielsen is filled to the brim with knick-knacks from all over, from gorgeous diaries to cosy towels and all the candles you could desire. Stop by, grab something for a gift and don't forget a little something for yourself.

22. Fótógrafi

Skólavörðustígur 22

Fótógrafi claims to have been one of the first photo galleries in town. While its interior is tiny, there's a surprising number of photos to be found inside. The pictures on display are mainly shot in Reykjavik or

elsewhere in Iceland and all of them have a slightly different, edgy take on the island, instead of adding to the abundance of touristy subjects.

23. Stefánsbúð/p3

Laugavegur 7

Stefánsbúð showcases local designers and second-hand high-fashion finds (hello 1990's Gucci!) as well as accessories from quirky international brands. Fun and zany, you don't know what you're going to find but you know it'll be exciting.

H

WASTELAND
SECOND HAND
CLOTHING
Ingólfsstræti 5
101 Reykjavík

WASTELAND
SECOND HAND
CLOTHING
Ingólfsstræti 5
101 Reykjavík



Character Shining
Through: Seabear Returns

Sindri Már on Seabear’s first album in 12 years

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine**
Photo: **Lilja Birgisdóttir & Ingibjörg Birgisdóttir**

Seabear began as a solo project of Sindri Már Sigfússon—who you may also know as Sin Fang— in 2003. Since then, it has grown into a six-piece act involving musicians, each with projects of their own and each bringing something different to the table.

While their latest single, Waterphone, came out in 2019, their new album, In Another Life, marks the band’s first since 2010’s well-received We Built A Fire.

So naturally, our first question to Sindri Már was, what was the hold up? The pandemic? Not exactly.

“Six people within a democratic band, it takes a long time to get to a solution,” Sindri tells us. “So we have very long Facebook threads. We’re all so different in our personalities, music-wise, we have such broad musical tastes and opinions, which was one of the good things when the band started. It was a mix of classically-trained [and] art school kids, basically. But the delay is more because we just wanted to get it right. We had like 25 or 30 ideas for songs, but ended up with 10 or 12 on the album”

Just one of the gang

Sindri is more than happy to be just another member of the band when he writes with Seabear, as

he finds the experience produces something he wouldn’t be able to accomplish on his own.

“I think more big-picture when I do Sin Fang,” he says. “I’ll usually write every part of a song. When I do demos [for Seabear], I’ll leave spaces for people to fill up. It’s not for me to fill the whole canvas. The demos also have to be stronger. I can’t just bury them in production tricks because the song has to be good to start with. You can make anything cool in the studio, which isn’t an option with this band. I also think more about how the song is going to translate live. I don’t think about that when I write a Sin Fang song; I’m writing it purely for my own gratification and I don’t think about any of that stuff. I’m more of a team player in Seabear.”

“I would have never made this album solo,” he adds. “I couldn’t make this music without these other co-writers. Everyone is equal in this band. It’s really fun. When you funnel an idea through six people, it’s always going to end up where you never would have ended up if you were just on your own.”

Why the reunion?

Getting the gang back together for one big score started as a joke of sorts, but then transformed into something magical.

“We were out to dinner with our partners, something we have an annual tradition of doing, and we were just talking about how funny it would be to make an album now, because the last album came out 12 years ago and was made 13 years ago,” he tells

us. “Everyone’s changed a lot and has evolved as musicians as well. When we did the first two albums, we didn’t really know what the hell we were doing, stumbling our way through the dark trying to figure this thing out. So the basic idea was wouldn’t it be funny to make

music together now and see what it’d sound like? Because we could never make music the way we did when we were in our 20s. It’s just not possible. Sometimes when you play a really old song of yours, it almost feels like you’re doing a cover, because you’re a completely different person.”

Once recording together again, the magic came back in spades.

“It felt like we never stopped,” he says. “That was the really funny part. We did the first song and my brother was listening to it and said, ‘Yeah, it sounds really Seabear-y.’”

The future looks bright

The experience was so positive, in fact, that fans of Seabear will likely not have to worry much about whether or not they can expect more from the band.

“We already have a few ideas that we’ve been working on remotely,” Sindri says. “This was actually quite easy to make for us. There was no drama. It was just fun. In the end, we were just happy that we pushed this over the finish line. We also fell into a groove where everyone has their part. I think we’re definitely going to do another album. I’m super happy with the sounds we did for this album. Everyone’s character really shines through.”

New record is available in our online store: shop.grapevine.is

TASTE THE BEST OF ICELAND



ICELANDIC GOURMET FEAST

Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín

Followed by 7 delicious tapas

- Smoked puffin with blueberry “brennivín” sauce
- Icelandic Arctic Charr with peppers-salsa
- Lobster tails baked in garlic
- Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster sauce
- Icelandic lamb with beer-butterscotch sauce
- Minke Whale with cranberry & malt sauce

And for dessert

- White chocolate “Skr” mousse with passion coulis

9.490 KR.

BOOK YOUR TABLE

TAPASBARINN
Vesturgata 3B | Tel: 551 2344 | tapas.is



Event Picks



★ Ólafur Arnalds

May 23rd - 20:00 - Háskólabíó - 9.990-13.990 ISK

Ólafur Arnalds, undoubtedly one of Iceland’s most renowned musical artists of the present-day, will kick off his much-awaited world tour from his hometown of Reykjavík. And boy, are we excited; due to the pandemic, it’s been three years since Ólafur Arnalds last performed at home.

On stage with Óli will be a string quartet and percussionist, as well as his infamous self-playing Stratus pianos. The gig will feature Ólafur’s latest album Some Kind Of Peace, released in 2020. As a result, this show will mark the first time that the Grammy-nominated multi-instrumentalists album will be performed live. The concert is described as ‘intimate’, but if social anxiety is something you’re struggling in the post-covid world, beware the gig is for almost 1000 people. **IZ**



★ Daughters of Reykjavik - family concert

May 13th - 18:30 - Iðnó - 3900 ISK

Iceland’s favourite female hip-hop collective will be playing two concerts at Iðnó on May 13th. The latter one starts at 22:00, but for those keen to bring their kids along to the show, an extra performance will take place at 18:30. Your family Friday night plans sorted. **IZ**



★ Kyndilberar / Torchbearers

May 14th - 16:00 - Bíó Paradís - 3000 ISK

Bíó Paradís is hosting the world premiere of ‘Kyndilberar’, or Torchbearers on May 14th. It’s a 7-episode video series about Icelandic folk music, with each episode being dedicated to one song, produced by Vökufélagið, an organisation building an inclusive folk music and dance community in Iceland. **IZ**



MUSIC NEWS

It’s that time of the year again. Eurovision is being held on the 14th of May and our beloved Eyþór’s sisters are gonna perform their song, Með Hækkandi sól, on the stage in Turin, Italy. All of the sisters are quite well-known musicians as well as their mother, the legend Ellen Kristjánsdóttir, who Icelanders adore. The song actually won quite fierce competition when they were heads on with the feminist punk rappers Daughters of Reykjavik. Unlike the hip hop artists, the sisters offer a grounded lyrical folk song, somewhat a stark contrast to the often idiotic glimmer fest you find in Eurovision. The sisters have announced that they will not dance on the stage, not because they hate it, but because they have severe ADHD and wouldn’t be able to remember all of the details onstage. **VG**



The hard-hitting news show 60 Minutes finally turned their investigating journalist’s eye to the Icelandic craze of Eurovision and aired the show at the end of April. This was of course slightly embarrassing for everybody, and a small detail was kept out when stating that 98% of the nation watch the competition - that is that we also like to get drunk. Our President, Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, was seen cheering at the Eurovision preliminary in Iceland (to be clear, he wasn’t drunk,) and then explained to the journalist, Jon Wertheim, that Icelanders have a bizarre interest in Eurovision, so much that the President actually sang Save Your Kisses for Me with Brotherhood Of Man which was the contribution from the UK in Eurovision held in 1976. Again, just to be clear, the President was not drunk. **VG**



Ever hard-working and busy Skepta has thankfully found some time for us island people. This grime pioneer will be performing in Valshöllin on the 1st of July. He performed at Airwaves back in 2015, but this concert will be extra special, being his first-ever solo concert in Iceland. Collaborations over the years found him walking amongst music giants such as Drake, A\$AP Rocky, Wiz Khalifa, Kanye West and Kid Cudi, but he held his own. Skepta and his brother JME packed the Reykjavik Art Museum last time, so be sure to buy your tickets before they sell out. Albumm.is reports Garcia Events, the concert host, saying: “It is a great pleasure that such a popular and respected musician performs in Iceland. Everyone who knows about Skepta’s concert knows that no one will be disappointed by the evening in Valshöllin”. **AP**

May 6th — June 2nd

Upcoming Events

Send details of your event to: events@grapevine.is

Yay! No more pandemic restrictions! Don't hold your breath, though; we've been here before. So get out and enjoy the nightlife while you can. Here's how...

Friday May 6th

Bridesmaids Party Screening
21:00 Bíó Paradís
Apocalypstick - Drag Kabarett
21:00 Gaukerinn
Sycamore Tree
20:30 Harpa
Trevor Noah
20:30 Laugardalshöll
ABK Quintet
21:00 Skuggabaldur

Saturday May 7th

Forsmán/Port/Starri
20:00 Gaukurinn
MAL/TÍÐ Invites You To Waste Feast
12:00 Nordic House
MAL/TÍÐ Invites You To Experiment - Elder Farmer
17:00 Nordic House
Guðmundur Pétursson Trio
21:00 Skuggabaldur
That's Hot - 2000s Party
19:00 Loft Hostel
Healing Flow Meditation
11:00 Mama Reykjavík

Sunday May 8th

Salsa Night
19:30 IÐNÓ
MAL/TÍÐ invites You To Carnal Dinner
18:00 Nordic House
Craig Taborn - Shadow Plays
20:00 Salurinn

Monday May 9th

Karma Brigade and KUSK
20:00 Gaukerinn

Tuesday May 10th

Karaoke Night
20:00 Gaukerinn

Wednesday May 11th

Múlinn Jazz Club Andrés Þór Trio
20:00 Harpa

Thursday May 12th

NORÐANROKK
20:00 Gaukerinn
Ife Torentino (BR)
20:00 Skuggabaldur
Karma Brigade
20:00 Hús Máls og Menningar

Friday May 13th

Rocky Horror Picture Show - Sing-along party
21:00 Bíó Paradís
80s Power Metal Night
20:00 Gaukerinn
Skúlagata: Lævi Blandið N°1
20:00 Húrra
Daughters of Reykjavik (support: Friðrik Dór)
18:30 IÐNÓ
Daughters of Reykjavik (support: Gugusar)
22:00 IÐNÓ
Art Auction for Ukraine
18:00 Loft Hostel
Fringe Festival warm-up party
22:00 Hús Máls og Menningar
Jóel Pálsson Quartet
21:00 Skuggabaldur
Karma Brigade
20:00 Hús Máls og Menningar

Saturday May 14th

Eurovision with Gógó Starr
19:00 Þjóðleikhúsið
Torch Bearers Premiere Screening
15:30 Bíó Paradís
Úna Mas & DJ Funky Lucky
21:00 Skuggabaldur
Mandólin
20:00 Hús Máls og Menningar

Sunday May 15th

Sævar Jóhannsson
19:30 IÐNÓ

Monday May 16th

The Mystic Mic Comedy Night
20:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday May 17th

Karaoke Night
20:00 Gaukerinn

Wednesday May 18th

Eurovision Viewing Party
20:00 Gaukerinn
Khalid
18:00 Laugardalshöll
Les Métèques
20:00 Hús Máls og Menningar

Thursday May 19th

Nýdönsk
20:00 Bæjarbíó
Sarah Millican
20:00 Háskólabíó
Bowie Kvöld með Trabant
20:00 Hús Máls og Menningar
Nico Moreaux Quartet
20:00 Skuggabaldur

Friday May 20th

Jón Jónsson
20:00 Harpa
Acid Fest
18:00 Freezer Hostel
Skuggakvartett Sigurðar Flosasonar
21:00 Skuggabaldur
Nýdönsk
20:00 Bæjarbíó

Saturday May 21th

Briet
20:00 Harpa
Briet
22:30 Harpa
Andrea Bocelli
20:00 Háskólabíó
The Wacken Metal Battle - 10th year anniversary
19:00 Húrra
Skuggakvartett Sigurðar Flosasonar
21:00 Skuggabaldur
Nýdönsk
20:00 Bæjarbíó
Healing Flow Meditation
11:00 Mama Reykjavík

Monday May 23th

Ólafur Arnalds
20:00 Háskólabíó

Tuesday May 24th

Trixie Mattell
20:00 Harpa
Karaoke Night
20:00 Gaukerinn

Wednesday May 25th

Opia Records Showcase

20:00 Húrra
MÍT & FÍH Jam Session
21:00 Skuggabaldur
Improv Jam in Icelandic and English
22:00 Þjóðleikhúskjallarinn
Drag Bingo Vol III with Miss Gloria Hole
19:30 Loft Hostel

Thursday May 26th

Monthly Dungeons and Dragons Night
20:00 Gaukerinn
Mikael Máni Quartet
20:00 Skuggabaldur
Wardruna
20:00 Harpa
Svavar Knútur
20:00 Skálinn

Friday May 27th

Stjórnin
20:00 Bæjarbíó
Los Bomboneros
20:00 Skuggabaldur
How To Become Icelandic in 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Saturday May 28th

ACIDFEST
18:00 Kex Hostel
Byzantine Silhouettes
21:00 Skuggabaldur
Stjórnin
20:00 Bæjarbíó

Sunday May 29th

Rufus Wainwright
20:00 Harpa

Monday May 30th

Bring the Laughs Comedy Night
20:00 Gaukerinn

Tuesday May 31st

Karaoke Night
20:00 Gaukerinn

Wednesday June 1st

Taylor Mac
20:00 Þjóðleikhúsið

Thursday June 2nd

Reykjavik Arts Festival - Intimate Wagner
20:00 Harpa
Taylor Mac
20:00 Þjóðleikhúsið

Hegðun 10
Hreinn Friðfinnsson
23.04.22–28.05.22

“To be exhibiting in this context is nothing short of fantastical. It’s an incredible opportunity.”

On and In Perpetual Motion

Sigurður Guðjónsson exhibits at the 59th Venice Biennale

Words: **Tara Ingvarsdóttir** Photos: **Ugo Carmeni & Joana Fontinha**

The 59th Venice Biennale, which is open until November, consists of exhibits by 80 different participants who represent their nations in their individual pavilions. Iceland’s pavilion, which hosts Sigurður Guðjónsson’s work, is—for the first time ever—located in Arsenale, one of the two main exhibition sites.

Two winters ago, Sigurður Guðjónsson was doing his food shopping in Bónus when he got a call inviting him to represent Iceland at the 59th Venice Biennale. This is how the journey began for Sigurður, who has just returned to Iceland after the Biennale’s opening week.

The 59th Venice Bi-Annual International Art Exhibition

Visiting the Venice Biennale is like entering a snapshot of time; an amalgam of what artists all over the world are addressing, and a lens on which artists receive the platforms to do so. As it opens, the discussion begins among the guests of what is absolutely not to be missed in the curated sea of contemporary art. Sigurður’s multi-sensory installation Perpetual Motion was quickly picked up in the conversation—in fact, the Financial Times wrote a critique where they mentioned it as one of the top five National Pavilions in Venice.

“To be exhibiting in this context is nothing short of fantastical. It’s an incredible opportunity,” Sigurður says, seemingly still taking it all in. “The Monday before the opening there were definitely some nerves. Then the doors opened on Tuesday and I could feel it—the undercurrents were flowing.”

With Perpetual Motion, Sigurður offers a focused, sculptural and meditative landscape of a world which lies just beyond what the human eye can see. A split-screen

installation shows a constant drift of magical metal dust, and the accompanying electronic soundscape provides a glimpse into the hidden world Sigurður has captured.

Time, time, time

The Biennale was delayed by one year due to Covid-19. “I had been working on the show full speed until the big slam,” Sigurður shares. “When it became clear the Biennale would be postponed, I put that work on hold and started working on other things. It ended up being a really experimental time, in which I played and explored a lot in my studio.”

He adds, “By the time I arrived in Venice I had about 20 different ideas of what the work might become in my head, but it wasn’t until I saw the space that I could decide in which direction to go.” Sigurður designs his installations in conversation with their environment. “I try to make a connection to the spaces I work in,” he explains. “When I finally saw the space there were sparks. The Arsenale is an old shipyard, a raw space with huge ceilings—those kinds of details get me going.”

Going Deeper

Mónica Bello, the curator of the Icelandic Pavilion, and Sigurður worked closely together on this show. They first met years before, at a tour of the Large Hadron Collider, and at a time when Sigurður’s work was inching closer to the micro-world that he presents with Perpetual Motion. “It’s exactly in this largest machine that man has ever made that we can see into the smallest molecules of the world,” Sigurður says. “It was a very powerful place to start.”

Sound as Bodily Experience

Music plays a large role in Sigurður’s work: in the 90s he was in a death metal band called Cranium (keep your eyes out for the upcoming remastered version of their album Abduction). “I went to art school in Copenhagen and the arts grabbed a hold of me—I haven’t been able to get away from them since,” he laments. “But music will always be in my roots and almost always appears in my work—whether as music or sound. Music and sound are atmospheric, they make for a bodily experience of the work,” Sigurður adds.

The soundscape is integral to the work, using a vertical stereo system which shifts depending on where you are in the room. Sigurður shares, “I created the soundscape with Valgeir Sigurðsson, who is an incredible artist. We tossed the material between each other, layered and filtered electronic sound. We were really going inside the material.”



Sigurður Guðjónsson

09.04.–29.9.2022

The Power of Erró Images

REYKJAVÍKUR
ART MUSEUM LISTASAFN HAFNARHÚS

AZTIO

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17
+354 411 6410
artmuseum.is

Open daily
10h00–17h00
Thursdays
10h00–22h00

Art Picks



★ Inner Space

Until July 2nd - Hverfisgalleri
Hverfisgata 4-6

Three dimensional wall works, reliefs, a colour palette ranging from untreated wood, to principal colours, to neon. Belgian artist Jeanine Cohen's solo exhibition explores the effect colours and shapes can have on our spatial experi-

ence. While each piece is a stand-alone work of art, she uses the exhibition space to stimulate a collaborative dialogue between them. Forming an inner world where light and shadows create their own shapes, it leaves you wondering how you can further sharpen your visual perception to any environment you happen to find yourself in.

Cohen's career spans over 40 years, but it wasn't until 2000 when she started engaging in the spatial explorations we know her of today. Inner Space shows her most recent work, deconstructing the basic elements of a painting and reassembling them into a new work of art, leaving recognisable imagery behind. **KW**



★ Conduct 10

Until May 28th - i8 Gallery

Bringing together almost 50 years of work, the exhibition of Amsterdam-based Icelandic artist Hreinn Friðfinnsson features sculptures, installation, photography and works on paper. The pieces explore elements of time, environment, narration, memory and perception, all using everyday materials as a basis. **KW**



★ Bótapegi

Opens June 1st at 16:00, until July 31 - Austurvöllur

The reality of being disabled and living in poverty in this prosperous country is something Hrafn Hólmfríðarson Jónsson (aka Krummi) draws attention to with his photo exhibition. Krummi explores what it's like to suffer material deprivation in a society that makes you believe money can buy happiness. **KW**



★ Space Mama Piggy

Until May 31st - Bókasafn
Hafnarfjarðar

Sólveig Eva exhibits her graphic novel, which tells the story of Space Mama Piggy, who suffers from separation anxiety after sending off her babies into space as a drastic means for survival. With a humorous undertone, it explores a range of deep emotions that anyone concerned with mental wellbeing can find relief in. **KW**

May 6th — June 2nd

Art Exhibitions

Gallery openings, happenings, showings and pop-up exhibitions all around the capital region.

Send details of yours to: events@grapevine.is

Ongoing

KLING OG BANG

Three Rearrangements - A Commonality Of Escape

This exhibition features brand new, site-specific works by Daniel Ágúst Ágústsson, Pétur Magnússon, Pier Yves Larouche & Richard Müller. The enigmatic press release says little more, and there's not much on the gallery website either. But we trust the peeps at Kling og Bang to always be on point when it comes to curation. You know it's gonna be a goody, so just go.

- Runs until May 15th

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Erró: The Power of Images

Erró is undoubtedly Iceland's best-known visual artist internationally. The Reykjavik Art Museum is custodian of nearly 4000 pieces of the artist's work after he began donating them in the 1980s, and this exhibition of more than 300 of them is the most extensive showing of the artist's works ever seen in Iceland. Videos, graphics, multiples and collages—with larger works in public spaces, and paintings of all scales— showcase Erro's eclectic appropriation of imagery from every possible domain.

- Runs until September 29th

LISTASALUR MOSFELLSBÆJAR

Wörður, vinur minar

Ever heard of cairns? If you've travelled around Iceland, you may have bumped into them. A cairn is a man-made pile of stacked rocks, usually indicating that hikers are on the right trail. Greatly valuing environmental protection and recycling, textile artist Anna Maria drew inspiration from these landmarks and created a series of woven cairns using second hand materials.

- Runs until May 20th

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Random Moments

The Museum of Photography has long been the repository of Iceland's photographic history, amassing more than 6.5 million film-originated images over the last four decades. In more recent years, digital techniques have allowed the creation of an image database to include text relevant to the image from publications. This exhibition uses the collec-

tion's search facility to conjure up combinations of images through text, allowing photographic moments to become related through particular words.

- Runs until November 19th

MUSEUM OF DESIGN & APPLIED ART

Bathing Culture

The outdoor geothermal pool is the most interesting public sphere in Iceland. A place where strangers cross paths and acquaintances meet, it is a source of wellbeing and a major part of everyday life for many. This exhibition traces the development of Icelandic bathing culture, showing how architects and designers, pool staff and the public have together shaped the story.

- Runs until September 25th

Virtual waters

Taking a philosophical approach to the Iceland bathing culture, Hrund Atladóttir describes diving into water as entering another dimension full of contradictions. In connection with the museum's current 'bathing culture' exhibition, this work challenges viewers to dive into this dimension through virtual reality and experience the effect water can have on perception.

- Runs until October 23rd

ÓFEIGUR ART GALLERY

Sigurður Þórir

Photographer Hallgerður Hallgrímsdóttir explores how taking a photograph can seem so simple—"just the push of a button"—making the resulting image almost an objet trouvé rather than a creation. But creative it is; mysterious and emotional, with aesthetics and instincts coming into play. And yet, at the same time, the process of photography is decidedly rooted in the scientific.

- Runs until April 18th

i8 GRANDI

In Relation To The Sun

i8 Grandi is a new exhibition space, the unique concept of which is to focus on year-long shows by single artists. The exhibitions will evolve while on view, allowing their creators to reflect how the passage of time alters their work and encourage repeat viewings to observe those changes. This inaugural exhibition by Alicja Kwade encom-

pases installation, sculpture and work on paper. Its title—initially "In Relation To The Sun"—will change as the nature of the pieces on display evolves.

- Runs until December 22nd

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

In 1909 Einar Jónsson—described on the museum's website as "Iceland's first sculptor"—offered all of his works as a gift to the Icelandic people, on the condition that a museum be built to house them. The resulting edifice, constructed just over the road from Hallgrímskirkja, now contains close to 300 artworks. There is also a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures to enjoy.

NORDIC HOUSE

Life in the Universe

The child-friendly exhibition is based on a short story by Zakya Ajmi about Liv, a girl who just learned from her father that space is constantly expanding. Intrigued, she explores the starry sky with her telescope. She suddenly finds herself on a spaceship where her great adventure starts. What is life like from above, away from the city lights?

- Runs until October 1st

CULTURE HOUSE

Treasures Of A Nation

The Culture House was built in 1909, and was the first purpose-built gallery in Iceland. Towering above the surrounding town at the time, it was a popular spot to take in the natural vistas which have inspired local artists for centuries. This exhibit brings together a selection of paintings from the National Gallery, all inspired by Iceland and created from the 19th century onwards.

- Runs until May 31st

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

As Far As The Eye Can See

Birgir Andrésson was a leading light in Icelandic art until his untimely death in 2007. Taking influence from all aspects of Icelandic life, legend and culture, he presented them in a unique and informed way, drawing admiration from both local and international art communities. This retrospective brings together more than a hundred of his works, including some from international and private collections.

- Runs until May 15th

GALLERY PORT

Hotel Saga: A Place In Time

Photographer Hákon Pálsson captured the images that make up this exhibition on one day in July 2021, some eight months after his

subject—the Hotel Saga in Reykjavík—had been abandoned. The Saga had been a shining example of international modernism, and Hákon's work examines the idea of a building which openly sought to eliminate all connection to its location and its history.

- Runs until April 14th

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Staged Moments

This expansive exhibition features some 41 photographic artists. The work on show spans the time between the 1970s and the present day, and focuses on demonstrating the diverse use of photography as a creative medium. The exhibition also reflects less positive attitudes to photography as a creative medium, based on the inherent nature of the process as one of mechanical reproduction.

- Runs until May 8th

GERÐASAFN

Status Check

Through a collection of sculptures, graphic collages, poems, essays, and multimedia installations, multiple visual artists and writers of the same generation provide insight into their minds and hopes. All prominent in their own field, they focus on their past, present, future, and its artistic communication. Combining nostalgia with different concepts of time and reality, the artists ponder what society and identity really mean.

- Runs until May 29th

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Straumnes

During the cold war the U.S. military operated a radar station at Straumnesfjall, a remote coastal location in

the Westfjords. After the Americans left, the area was eventually cleaned up and left to regrow. Local photographer Marínó Thorlacius reflects the beauty of nature, captured among the residue of the abandoned military installation.

- Runs until May 1st

HARPA

Circuleight

This immersive light and sound installation is inspired by elements of natural Iceland: lava, basalt, glaciers, water, flora, algae, microorganisms and volcanic gas. Visuals are provided by American arts organisation Artehouse, accompanied by an original score from Högni Egilsson. Circuleight is open from noon until 18:00 every day, and takes 20 minutes to experience.

- Runs until May 31st

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Óðinn Coast Guard Vessel

Take a guided tour around this former guardian of Icelandic waters.

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Spatial Infractions

Rósa Gísladóttir exhibits her work in conversation with that of Icelandic sculpture pioneer Ásmundur Sveinsson. Rósa is best known for her creations in the medium of plaster, but she often references architecture in her work and here will use Ásmundarsafn, the museum building itself, as a sculpture.

- Runs until May 29th

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

GARÐATORG 1
210 GARÐABÆR

EXHIBITIONS

BATHING CULTURE UNTIL 23.10.

HRUND ATLADÓTTIR
THE PLATFORM
VIRTUAL WATERS
UNTIL 23.10.

RESIDENCY

STUDIO ALLSBER
PRODUCT DESIGNERS
UNTIL 08.05.

OPEN TUE—SUN 12—17
WWW.HONNUNARSAFN.IS

Instagram Facebook honnunarsafn

Film

FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

Icelandic Delicacies



Must try dishes

Lamb & Flatbread

Slow cooked lamb, traditional Icelandic flatbread from the Westfjords, carrot purée, pickled red onions, horseradish sauce

Arctic Charr & Blini

Lightly cured arctic charr, chickpea blini, horseradish sauce, roe, crispy lentils, yuzu-elderflower dressing

Icelandic Platter

- > Puffin, crowberry gel
- > Minke whale, malt glaze
- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

The Lamb Burger

Bacon, mushroom & date duxelle, pickled red onions, pickled cucumber, rucola, smoked cheese, fries

Skyr Eton Mess Cheesecake

White chocolate "Skyr" mousse, meringue, raspberries, raspberry sauce



Happy Hour 15-17
every day

Fjallkonan is a lively restaurant & pub in the heart of Reykjavík offering a selection of Icelandic and international dishes from local ingredients.

Casual and cosy atmosphere yet still fun and festive. Stop by for snacks & drinks, lunch or dinner.

FJALLKONAN WELCOMES YOU!



fjallkonan.rvk



fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3 > Tel. +354 555 0950 > fjallkona.is



RVK Feminist Film Festival coordinator Sólrún Freyja Sen

A Platform For Marginalised Women In Film

Why RVK Feminist Film Festival is a must-see

Words: **Iryna Zubenko** Photo: **Joana Fontinha**

It's 2022, yet, it's predominantly white cis het men who make movies about marginalised women. "Things need to change," says Sólrún Freyja Sen, coordinator of the RVK Feminist Festival, which kicked off on May 5. In our conversation, Solrún speaks on the importance of giving a platform for the voices of underrepresented women, the festival's goals, and tells us which movies you can't miss at this year's edition.

The idea behind the festival

The RVK Feminist Festival started in 2020. Its third edition was initially scheduled for early January, but had to be postponed due to COVID-19 regulations in Iceland. With all restrictions taken down now, the festival is back on the table, though its programme had to change. "The festival focuses on giving women a platform to show their films; most importantly, marginalised women, e.g., women who are not cisgender, LGBTQ+ women, and women [of] different races," says Solrún, pointing out that among the issues the festival wants to highlight is domestic and sexual abuse, women in violent relationships, and homeless pregnant women.

No such thing as a feminist paradise

To an outsider like me, Iceland does look like a great place to be a woman. Is there a need for a festival specifically dedicated to female filmmakers? "I know a lot of feminists here are not happy about Iceland being perceived as a feminist paradise," Sólrún points out. "Things are a lot better here than in many places, but we are still very far from an ideal feminist paradise. Women, and especially marginalised women, are under-represented in the film industry. We want women and marginalised people to be able to make films about their reality."

Sólrún agrees, however, that things are slowly changing. Female film directors have been receiving more publicity and respect in recent years. In Iceland in particular, there are more grants from film associations focused on promoting female directors. "But the percentage of female filmmakers versus male filmmakers is still very low and far from equal," assures Sólrún. "This festival is a chance for female film filmmakers to meet up and network, which is often a challenge for women who love to make films."

Diverse film programme

When I ask Sólrún which movies she recommends seeing at the festival, she's both excited and puzzled. "Oh my God, there are so many," she says. The festival program spans across a number of continents and themes, from Iceland to the African continent,

from drama films to animation shorts.

The opening film, 'RAFIKI' by Wanuri Kahiu, who CNN has called "one of Africa's most aspiring directors", tells the story of two Kenyan women falling in love. The film was actually banned in Kenya, and the director is coming all the way here to screen her work.

In addition, the RVK Feminist Film Festival will host many satellite events one might want to visit in between movie screenings: Q&As with directors, a short film competition, networking parties, and even a fashion show. In collaboration with Elísabet Ósk Vigfúsdóttir, founder of Urðarbrunnur, an organisation that provides housing for pregnant women who have faced homelessness or addiction, the festival will also organise a panel discussion with a fundraiser.

Towards the end of our conversation, I wonder who Sólrún thinks should come to the RVK Feminist Film Festival. "Everyone who loves films," she answers assuredly. I'm certainly convinced. With a noble goal, great selection of films and a chance to meet the filmmakers in person, there's something on offer for all movie fans, regardless of their gender or background. 🍷

See the full programme at:
rvkfemfilmfest.is





CEO Renata Bade Barajas & CTO Jillian Verbeurgt

Making Food Waste A Thing Of The Past

This female-led team is helping restaurants save food

Words:
Iryna Zubenko
Photos:
Joana Fontinha

Have you ever had to throw away food and felt guilty afterward? Or cooked way too much pasta for a one-person dinner, put it back in the fridge and never looked at it again? There's no doubt that food waste is a huge problem, but a startup from Iceland is there to solve it—for now, at a restaurant level. We spoke with **Jillian Verbeurgt** and **Renata Bade Barajas**, co-founders of GreenBytes, about how exactly it works.

Facing the problem

Jillian and Renata came to Iceland to study sustainable energy. Five years later, they are still in the country, but their professional interests shifted when the idea to start GreenBytes came in the summer of 2019. “While we were doing our Masters, we both worked in restaurants and threw away lots and lots of food,” shares Renata. “It was such a shame. I came up with a little spreadsheet and asked everyone to write down what they threw away, but no one did it.” Renata put the idea on hold but realised that one could use algorithms to predict what's going to be sold and figure out the right amount of food to order. A little later, she contacted Jilian and the work began.

Innovation behind the app

GreenBytes claims their app helps restaurants to organise their produce. “We allow them to keep track of their distributors, break down their menus,

and track their stock,” explains Renata. “The biggest thing we do is predict what they're going to sell in the future, and tell them what they should order based on what they're going to sell. That's where our algorithm comes in. It takes in past sales, weather and holidays, and predicts future sales.”

Can weather affect your restaurant sales? Indeed. “Imagine a hot day. Would you want a hot soup? Or a smoothie?” points out Renata. “On a nice day, I want to go out and sit on a patio and have someone cook food for me. I don't necessarily want to be in my own kitchen,” adds Jillian.

The GreenBytes algorithm can look at thousands of patterns at once. To build it, Jilian used data from an Icelandic restaurant. “It's all historical data from the restaurant. With its help, we can analyse the sales trends in the past, and try to make predictions about the future,” she shares.

GreenBytes did a case study at a local midsize restaurant in Iceland. “We saw that in a month we could reduce 251 kilos of food waste, which is approximately 628 kilos of CO₂,” tells Renata. “For that particular restaurant, the economic benefit would be more than 8,000 euros, which is about 1 million ISK per month.”

Restaurants pay a monthly subscription to use the app. There are different packages for setup—the team also offers assistance with this—with the final price depending on how big the menu is.

On challenges and future plans

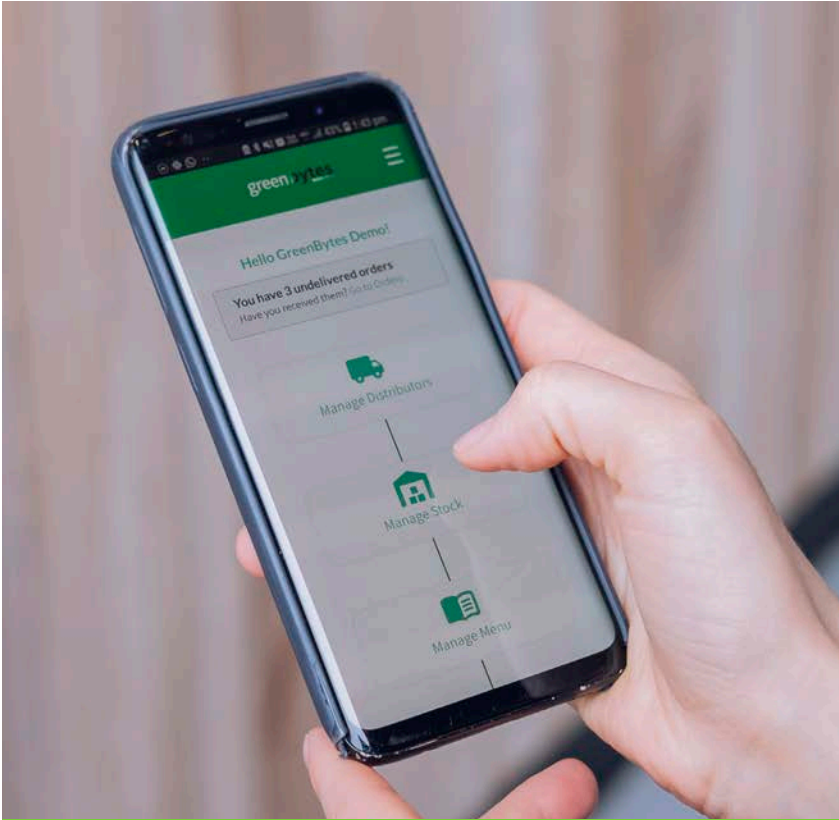
Jillian is originally from Canada and Renata from Mexico. They didn't know anything about the Icelandic startup market before they embarked on their journey with GreenBytes. They confess that startup life does remind them of a roller coaster sometimes. “It is difficult,” agrees Renata. “I do think that if we were Icelandic, we would be a tiny bit further ahead than we are now. Even with sales or restaurants with older owners, it's just easier and better to have first contact in Icelandic,” specifies Jillian, and immediately adds: “The people we've had interactions with and the programmes we've gone through were really nice. Everyone's been super supportive, we've made really great connections, even great friends.”

Recently, GreenBytes has been nominated for Best Newcomer Award by Nordic Startup Awards. They've been bootstrapping for the past year and are currently raising a funding round.

In the next five years, GreenBytes will be going international, but first, the team wants to perfect the solution in Iceland. Jillian says: “It's really important for us to get it right here before we fumble our way forward.” In the future, Jillian and Renata hope to make GreenBytes somehow transferable to bigger institutions, like grocery stores, and canteens.

“I would love to see a future where we optimise the entire food supply chain, because food waste doesn't just happen in restaurants or houses, it happens from the second we start growing food,” concludes Renata. “If we can predict what people in Reykjavik are going to be eating, we can tell farmers how much food they need to grow.”

The future GreenBytes envisions does seem a bit brighter—I leave the interview inspired and will definitely think twice when buying too much food or throwing it away. 🌱



GreenBytes in action

FLATEY

PIZZA NAPOLETANA



GRANDI • GARDABÆR • HLEMMUR • SELFÖSS
@FLATEYPIZZA WWW.FLATEYPIZZA.IS +354 588 2666

HORNIÐ
Restaurant ~ Pizzeria

Hornið opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.

Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30

For reservations call 551-3340



Restaurant Hornið – Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík – s. 551 3340 – www.hornid.is

WATCH GRAPEVINE



ON YOUTUBE



/THEREYKJAVIKGRAPEVINE

Track By Track

The Reykjavik Grapevine 24
Issue 05— 2022



Relax, Suð aren't after your wallet...

Summer Pop For The Heartbroken

Heidrunna might just offer the summer hits we all need

Words: **Valur Grettisson/Heidrunna** Photo: **Venitia Curtis**



Info

Heiðrún Anna Björnsdóttir became quite famous with the Icelandic band Cigarette in the mid-90s, which took the music scene by storm. Their one-hit wonder, I Don't Believe You, became the biggest hit that year in the Icelandic music scene and they were expected to go places, but broke up soon after. Heiðrún Anna is back, roughly two decades later, with an intriguing pop album where she performs under the artist name of Heidrunna. Her album, Melodramatic, is a well-crafted pop album in the spirit of Nordic pop, and has all of the characteristics to blow up on the internet. What's more; the album is getting well-received online. Of course, we wanted to know more, so we asked Heidrunna to explain this unexpected pop gem in our Track By Track:

Borderline:

A friend of mine was going through a hard time in a relationship and didn't know how to let go. Borderline is about that feeling when you need to do the right thing and have

a clean break, even though you know it's fucked up and that's the best option for you, but you just can't see the forest for the trees.

Love Don't Come Easy:

This is my favourite pop song. I co-wrote this after signing to Universal Publishing and whilst trying to write a song for Kylie. I wrote it with Barry Stone and Jules, who are probably two of the nicest people I've met. I learned a lot about how to write songs quickly in that session. Like most of my songs, it's about love and relationships—surprise surprise, my favourite subject!

Daydreamer:

Daydreamer is one of my favourite songs that I've written so far. It came about as I was walking home on a crisp sunny day. I started humming this melody with the lyric 'daydreamer' and it made me feel incredible. So good that when I came home I went straight to the piano and started to play it... it felt so special and natural, like something was in the air.

It's a love song about meeting somebody and having a romance that I'm sure many people can relate to—that feeling of having some fun with somebody and wanting to do that all over again... and of course, like most of my songs, it has a bit of a sad ending.

Erasing You:

Like a lot of my songs, it's about commitment and phobia. The pull and tug of relationships - does he

love me or not! The Groundhog Day and the emotions and tiredness of stopping and starting and deciding that maybe the only way to stop it is to erase everything about that person and never pick up the phone again.

No Valium:

I actually had that chorus melody line a long time ago when I lived in Liverpool... the lyric then was 'love me, don't leave' and I've since changed it to 'love me or leave me' and decided to finish that song and write a narrative about a girl that finds out that her boyfriend is cheating on her... with another girl she knows.

I think that's a very common scenario sadly and probably easy for people to relate to. That feeling of no appetite, no sleep and trying to get through it somehow without going on Valium.

Call It Melodramatic:

This song is super personal to me. Last year was a horrific year in more ways than one; I had an operation on my face to remove skin cancer. It was such a shock and a horrendous time. I went through every emotion possible, but I wrote this song about how an event like that can destabilise you so much, but you can come out of it stronger.

You Can Go Your Own Way:

This song started when I was a little bit hungover, sitting in my living room, strumming electric guitar, and watching my son playing computer games. His character had to jump from ski slopes so that was my starting line in the song 'I jump...' and then I wrote a story about a boy that goes on his gap year to a beautiful sunny location with his girlfriend but ends up getting his girlfriend stolen from him by his best friend. Bastard.

Cindy:

I wrote this when the only place I could party was in my kitchen. I actually do that a lot anyway. It's the only song on the album that I sing in Icelandic. When I was writing it I was doing it both in Icelandic and English (very much how I talk daily!) and that's why it's called Cindy, an homage to the one and only Cindy Lauper's Girls Just Wanna Have Fun; exactly what I was doing in the kitchen at the time.

In the end, I decided to have it just in Icelandic as it sounded cooler. I still listen to foreign songs and love them even though I don't know what the fuck they are saying!

You Make Me Feel:

I wrote this about an experience I had when I was in my hometown. It's when you meet someone for the first time and feel this electric connection just when you least expect it. Also at the time I was heavily into Prince and inspired by his honesty and simplicity in his writing, rhythm and structure.

All Cried Out:

This is probably my darkest song. It's really sad, because it was written at a difficult time. It's about loss and goodbyes and how much of it is a struggle to get through. 🍷

If your bar has a happy hour, email us on events@grapevine.is with the details

A selection from
Every Happy Hour
in 101 Reykjavík

Get the complete Happy Hour listings!

Download our free app Appy Hour in the Apple and Android stores



BASTARD BREW
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

BÍO PARADÍS
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
Beer 850 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

BREWDOG
Wed-Sun 14:00 to 17:00.
Beer 990 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

BRUT BAR
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

COOCOO'S NEST
Tue-Sat from 15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 1000 ISK,
Wine 1000 ISK.
Discount or a free appetiser.

DILLON
Every day from 14:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

FJALLKONAN
Every day from 15:00 to 17:00.
Beer 790 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

GAUKURINN
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

ÍÐNÓ
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 850 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

JÖRGENSEN KITCHEN & BAR
Weekdays 16:00 onwards.
Weekends 12:00 to 16:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

JUNGLE COCKTAIL BAR
Daily except Tue 16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1000 ISK.

KAFFI LÆKUR
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00 & 22:00 to 23:00
Beer 890 ISK.

KOFINN BAR
Every day from 12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 1000 ISK.

LOFT
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

LÓLA FLORENS
Every day from 15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 1000 ISK,
Wine 1000 ISK.

LUNA FLORENS
Tue-Sat from 15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 1000 ISK,
Wine 1000 ISK.
Discount or a free appetiser.

MIAMI
Tue 15:00 to 01:00.
Wed to Sat 15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK

PRIKID
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 1000 ISK.

PUBLIC HOUSE
Every day from 15:00 to 18:00 then 23:00 to 01:00
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 890 ISK

PUNK
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 850 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

RÖNTGEN
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SÆTA SVÍNID
Every day from 15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 790 ISK,
Wine 890 ISK.

SKÚLI CRAFT
Every day from 12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 900 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.
Happy hour includes four selected tap beers

SLIPBARINN
Every day from 15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

SÓLON
Every day from 15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

SUSHI SOCIAL
Sun-Thu from 17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

TAPAS BARINN
Every day from 17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

VEÐUR
Every day from 12:00 to 19:35.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

ÖLSTOFAN
Every day from 15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.



FEATURED DRINKING HOLE

ÍÐNÓ
VONARSTRÆTI 3
16:00 - 19:00 EVERY DAY
BEER 850 ISK
WINE 850 ISK

Built in 1897 as the city's first theatre, Íðnó has stood the test of time. When the pandemic hit, the historic building, housing a venue, café and restaurant, had to close down. New owners have since settled in and transformed the place back to its original state. The floors have

been stripped back and the bar placed where it used to be, providing those who grew up frequenting the old theatre with that sweet, sweet feeling of nostalgia. And for those looking for new energy, their terrace overlooking Tjörnin is the perfect place to soak in those rare rays of sunshine while sipping your happy hour drink. **KW**

Sólon
Monday - Friday 11:00 - 14:30
Ceasar salad - 1,490 ISK

Lemon
Every day 16:00 - 21:00
2f1 Juice + sandwich 1,095 ISK
Vegan option

Uppsalar
Every day 11:00 - 14:00
Burger & fries - 1,390 ISK
Vegan option

2,000 ISK And Under

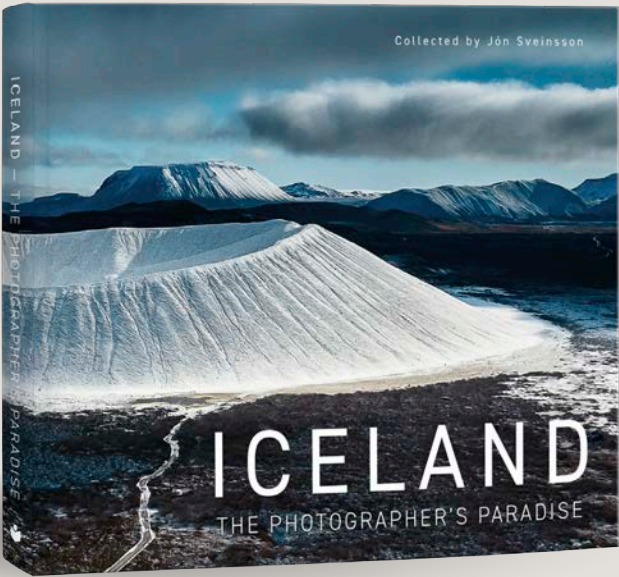
Sólon
Monday - Friday 11:00 - 14:30
Fish of the day - 1,990 ISK

Matarkjallarinn
Monday - Friday 11:30 - 15:00
Fisherman's fish soup - 1,990 ISK

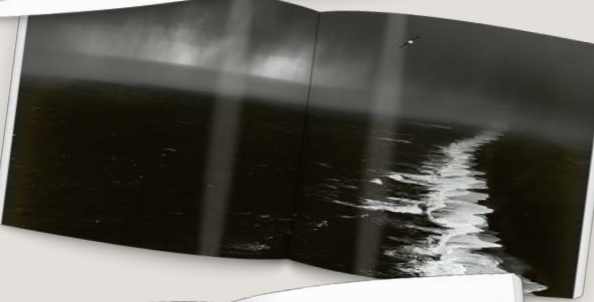
5,000 ISK And Under

Apótek
Every day 11:30 - 16:00
Two-course lunch - 3,390 ISK
Three course lunch - 4,390 ISK

PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE



Iceland is one of the most photogenic countries in the world – this book shares 121 pictures by various photographers from around the world



Cheap Food

Here are some deals that'll keep your wallet feeling happy and full.

1,000 ISK And Under

Hard Rock Café Every day 15:00 - 18:00 Nachos, wings & onion rings - 990 ISK	-1,000 ISK Vegan option
Sólon Monday - Friday 11:00 - 14:30 Soup of the day - 990 ISK	
Dominos All day Tuesday Medium sized pizza with three toppings	Tapas Barinn Every day 17:00 - 18:00

Selected tapas half price

Deig / Le Kock
Every day-All day
Doughnut, coffee & bagel -1,000 ISK

1,500 ISK And Under

Hamborgarbúlla Tómasar
All day Tuesday
Burger, french fries & soda - 1,390 ISK

Gló
All day, every day
Bowl of the month - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

Shalimar
Monday - Friday 12:00 - 14:30
Curry - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

Sæta Svínid
Every day 15:00 - 18:00
Chicken wings - 1,190 ISK

BEST NEWCOMER
BAR 2021

THE REYKJAVIK
GRAPEVINE

LIVE JAZZ
EVERY NIGHT

FREE ENTRY

DELICIOUS FOOD

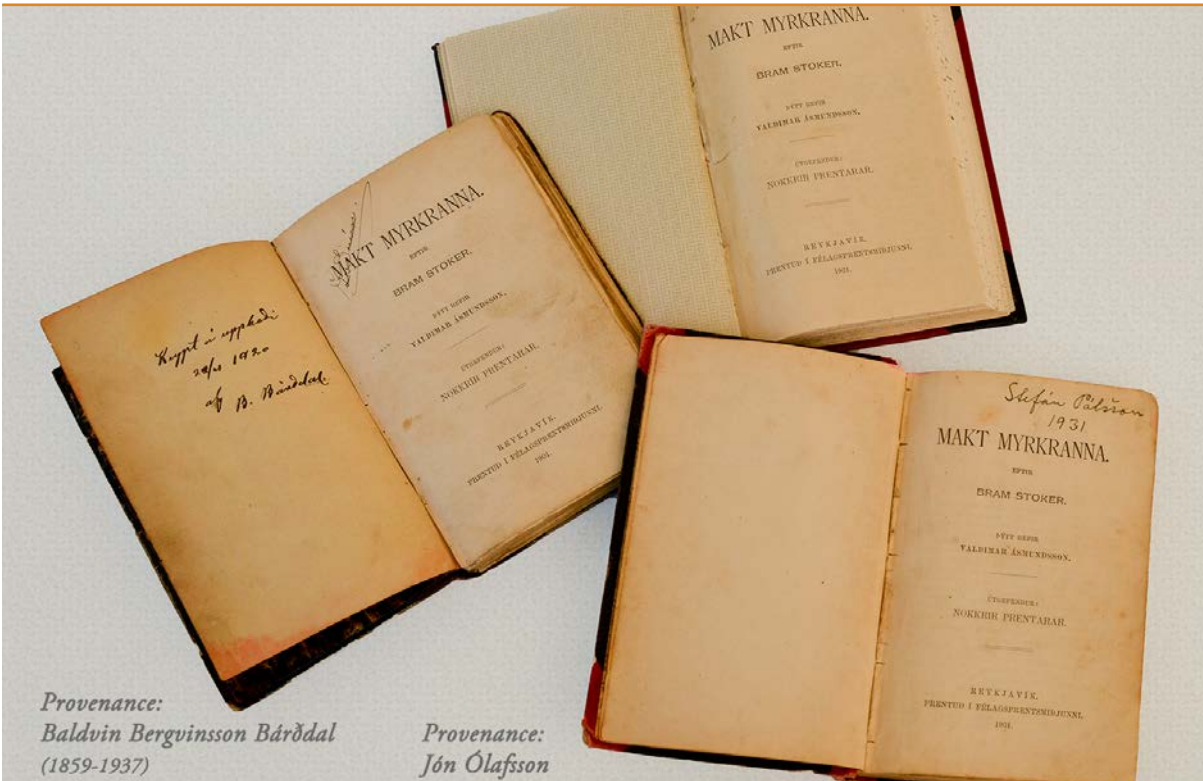
FINE WINES

AND
GOOD
VIBES

TASTY COCKTAILS



Books



Provenance:
Baldvin Bergvinsson Bárðdal
(1859-1937)

Provenance:
Jón Ólafsson

The Literary Mystery Of The Icelandic/Swedish Dracula

It was not until 2014 that Icelanders discovered that they had been reading a completely changed version of the famous bloodsucker story

Words: **Valur Grettisson** Photos provided by: **Hans Corneel de Roos**



Bram Stoker's Dracula is a book that needs no introduction. The vampire's cultural impact on the world is immense and the story has inspired writers and filmmakers for a century. And then there is, of course, Twilight.

But the odds are that if you ask an Icelander if they have read the book, they might have in fact read a completely different version. Unbeknownst to them, the original Icelandic translation of the book, called Makt myrkranna, or Power Of Darkness, is a completely different story from Stoker's.

The vampire takeover

The Icelandic version of the Count is much more political. Dracula is a fierce believer in social Darwinism and what's more, he leads an international conspiracy that tries to overthrow Western democracy! The story is more erotic and if you're in a hurry, you're in luck, because it's also way shorter than the original.

Most Icelanders had no idea about this until a scholar from the Netherlands discovered it in 2014, although literary scholars in Iceland had previously suspected something was up.. The Icelandic version of Dracula was translated by Valdimar Ásmundsson in 1900 and first published in a magazine called Fjallkonan (The Mountain Lady).

When literature researcher Hans Corneel de Roos read the

book in Icelandic, he discovered that Valdimar hadn't merely translated Dracula, but had penned an entirely new version of the story, with many new characters and a totally reworked plot.

What our translators do in the shadows

This all raises some important questions. Firstly, what in the dark lord's name is going on? But more to the point, why did Valdimar choose to change his translation so much? The resulting tale is actually similar to the story that we often see in the cinema. It's more streamlined, and as the author says in the preface, he more or less cut out things he didn't think mattered or found insignificant.

When the English translation of Makt myrkranna was released recently, Hans found out that this might even be more complicated than he thought. It turns out Valdimar's version shares a lot of similarities with another mysterious translation published in Sweden around the same time. We decided to contact Hans and ask the researcher about the Icelandic vampire, his findings, and where this rapidly-evolving literary mystery stands now.

When and how did you realise that Dracula was different in the Icelandic translation?

Around Christmas of 2013, I was preparing an article for the Journal of Dracula Studies about the claim in Dracula that the whole story was based on eyewitness reports. This claim is contained in the short note that introduces the British edition of 1897. But it is more strongly worded in the preface to Makt myrkranna, which was known to international readers through an English translation published by Richard Dalby in 1986. There were some phrases in this translation

that sounded odd to me, however, so I wanted to check the original Icelandic text, from an authentic Icelandic source, not from Dalby's transcription. It was the Reykjavík Public Library that sent me a facsimile of the preface of the 1901 edition. I attempted to translate it, without any knowledge of Icelandic. During these efforts, I entered a line from this Icelandic preface into Google, and was very surprised that it was included, word for word, in the Timarit.is database. That is how I came across the serialisation of Makt myrkranna in the newspaper Fjallkonan, starting on January 13, 1900.

Until then, English-speaking scholars had always believed that the 1901 hardcover edition had been the first publication of this text, and that it was nothing but an abridged translation of Stoker's Dracula. But when I entered fragments of the Icelandic story into Google translate, I soon discovered names and scenes that did not occur in Stoker's text.

The Icelandic version is said to be more erotic and even a bit more political. How so, and are there more fundamental differences between the two books?

In Stoker's Dracula, Jonathan Harker has a brief encounter with three young vampire women and for a moment, he is tempted by them. But after the Count intervenes, he avoids and despises them. In Makt myrkranna, there is just a single vampire girl, but she has a much stronger and long-lasting erotic influence on him. He constantly longs to see her again but hides this desire from the Count. The description of her appearance is very sexualised. They meet frequently; she sits on Harker's lap and kisses him. Another erotic element is that the Count has a horde of apelike followers who perform sacrificial ceremonies in the basement of the castle. Harker witnesses three beautiful, almost naked girls who are led to a primitive altar as prisoners. One of them is bitten to death by the ogres. Harker also finds a denuded female victim outside the castle. And in the London section of the novel, Dr. Seward is seduced by the mysterious, dark-eyed Countess Ida Várkony, until he becomes her mental slave.

As for the political dimension, in Makt Myrkranna, Count Dracula leads an international conspiracy that tries to overthrow Western democracy and establish a rule of

the strongest. Many of his guests and followers are high-ranking diplomats. The Count's role as the leader of a clan of degenerated family members who do the actual biting and killing is not included in Dracula either. Then there are the massive modifications of the novel's structure. Harker's adventures at Castle Dracula take much more space, while the other parts are very condensed. The story ends in London, when Van Helsing and his men find the Count in his lair and terminate him—very much like in the later stage and movie versions.

After your book Powers of Darkness was published, scholars found that Makt myrkranna was based on a series of translations that were published in Swedish newspapers and was called Mörkrets makter [which also translates to Power Of Darkness]. Yes, that was a bit of a shock, but also very exciting. From the very start, I had been in touch with Ásgeir Jónsson from Reykjavík, the editor of the third Icelandic edition. Ásgeir believed that the Icelandic preface must have been translated from another language, as it sounded a bit odd and contained a newly invented Icelandic word for “Secret Police” — Iceland had no secret police around 1900. Later I checked this with a group of linguistic experts from Icelandic universities and the Árni Magnússon Institute, and they confirmed Ásgeir's appraisal. For this reason, I assumed that there must have been an underlying English manuscript. I spent more than a year looking for a connection between Stoker and Ásmundsson.

There were many possibilities, but no definitive proof. Only after the English translation of Powers of Darkness had been released, fantasy specialist Rickard Berg-horn from Sweden contacted me and pointed me to the Swedish Mörkrets makter, which means the same as Makt myrkranna. This was a surprise, because around the same time that I discovered the Fjallkonan serial, my colleague Simone Berni from Italy had visited libraries in Malmö and Stockholm to look for a Swedish Dracula variant — and found nothing. It turned out that the Swedish version had only been serialised in periodicals but never printed in book form; that is why Berni had not been able to locate it. And the few Swedish scholars familiar with Mörkrets makter, for their part, had never cared to inform international scholars of Gothic fiction that Sweden possessed its own national variant of Dracula. When the news was out, Icelandic literary scholar Guðni Elísson claimed that he had always suspected that Makt myrkranna had been translated from another Nordic language. But Elísson had never published his theory, so I never learned about it. In retrospect, it all makes sense, of course. But if my translation from the Icelandic had not triggered so much international publicity, the

world might still not know that Mörkrets makter even existed. In March 2017, I discovered that there were actually two different Swedish variants: a long version, with almost 270,000 words (much longer than Stoker's Dracula), and a shorter variant, with only 106,000 words: shorter than Dracula, but still twice as long as the Icelandic version. From the narrative structure and the chapter titles, I concluded that Ásmundsson must have used the shorter Swedish variant, serialised in Aftonbladets Halfvecko-Upplaga.

Have you compared the stories, and what are the key differences between them?

The plot and the characters are basically the same in the Icelandic and the two Swedish variants. But the longest of the Swedish texts, published in the newspaper Dagen, continues in diary style after the Transylvanian part, while the shorter version of Mörkrets makter switches to a conventional narrative style, just like Makt myrkranna. In the Icelandic adaptation, the post-Transylvanian chapters are so compressed that the narrative loses important detail, e.g. about the relationship between Dr. Seward and Countess Ida Várkony. The erotic character and the political implications of the story can best be seen in the Dagen text, but sometimes it is a bit wordy. For the Icelandic publication, Ásmundsson replaced references about continental culture, especially about German romantic operas, with hints to Icelandic mediaeval literature, of which he was a specialist.

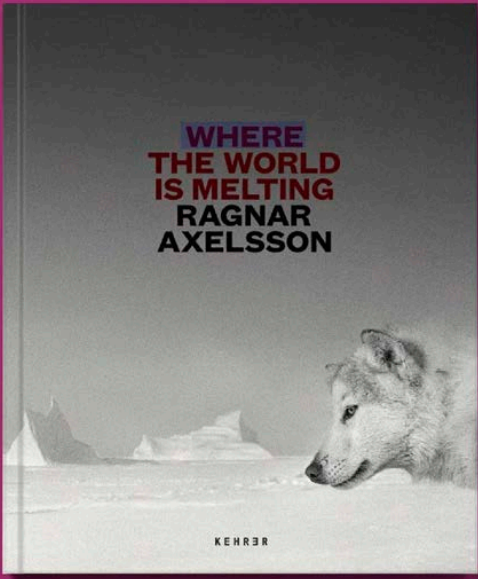
Was Bram Stoker himself ever involved in any of this?

That is the million-dollar question. When I initially published about Makt myrkranna in February 2014, I was the first to present the possibility that the Icelandic story might be based on an earlier, unpublished draft of Dracula. I relied on Ásgeir's assessment that the preface sounded like a translation from another language, and I discovered a number of parallels between Stoker's early notes for Dracula and the Icelandic plot. But when it became evident that Ásmundsson had adapted a Swedish, not an English text, I started to seriously doubt Stoker's involvement. In spring 2018 I discovered that parts of the Swedish preface were plagiarised from the memoirs of a Stockholm priest, Bernhard Wadström, which had been released three months before the start of the Dagen serialisation in June 1899. As Stoker understood no Swedish, it is very improbable that he had committed this plagiarism himself. Neither do I believe that he would have authorised it. And if the preface was fabricated by the Swedish newspaper people, then the rest of the novel may have been pirated as well. 🍷

You can find a longer version (not the 270.000 words, though) of this odd tale on our homepage, grapevine.is



Check Grapevine's Online Store!



EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

ON THE ULTIMATE FLYING RIDE



OPEN EVERY DAY | flyovericeland.com



HAPPIEST
HAPPY HOUR
IN REYKJAVÍK

Happy
HOUR

15-18



BEER 890 KR. COCKTAILS 1.590 KR.

Get Grapevine Merch!



shop.grapevine.is

Don't Hesitate!
Act Now!



Food



Burgers Part 2: Hip Hop Legends And Dirty Politicians

We visited Bullan, 2Guys and Hagavagninn, and found out that there is a new serious player in the market

Words: **Shruthi Basappa** & **Valur Grettilsson** Photos: **Joana Fontinha** & **Art Bicnick**



Laugavegi 28
537 99 00
sumac@sumac.is
sumac.is

That Reykjavík loves its burgers in all forms—from vegan, vegetarian, lamb, and standard beef, to exotic flights of fancy—is well established. So much so that even restaurants that aren't burger joints almost always have a burger or two on their menus. With so many burgers to explore, and only so many meals in one day where it's socially acceptable to consume them (sorry, but nobody wants a breakfast burger), we're back on the case with The Great Burger Show-down Two: Burger Boogaloo.

2 Guys



Okay first things first, the name. Iceland is full of places that are a tad too comfortable with 'inspired' restaurant names. But as Robert Aron, more popularly known as Robbi Kronik, one of the owners behind the venture, sheepishly admits, "It was supposed to be just a working title, and now it's remained so." First started as a pandemic pop-up, they now have a steady home by Hlemmur. It's a

sparse, low-key affair with dartboards on one side and casual seating on the other, but the burgers are far from boring.

SB: I'll admit I totally judged this book by its cover before eating here. But it was definitely love at first sight with the 2Guys burger—the bun and patty align perfectly as if it were run through a cookie cutter, the cheese is perfectly melty, and the size fits perfectly in your palms. These are some of the tastiest burgers in town. They use a generously fatty patty, smashed to perfection—no dry edges here—with just the right ratio of bronzed exteriors to juicy insides. The buns are toasted just so and the whole thing is assembled with such precision that the burger never slides or falls apart. What is particularly striking is that the chef lets the burger truly shine, without the weight of unnecessary frou-frou. The simplicity of the 2Guys aside, I do have a soft spot for the crushed Dorito-candied jalapeno-studded 2Pac. It's one of those damned things you come up with at 2am, yet elevated. Robbi takes great pride in making, "an honest, no-frills burger" and it shows.

VG: 2Guys make an interesting promise just with its premises. They are striving for 90s Hip-Hop culture with burgers named 2Pac and posters of Snoop Dog on the wall. There are no two ways about it, this is supposed to be a smooth combination of nostalgia and the holy grail in fast-food—hamburgers.

2Guys manage to succeed in every aspect here. The 2Pac is their crown jewel and luckily it lives up to its name. The burgers are simple, very well executed and offer a laid back, nostalgic burger experience with a load of charm and a touch of humour. They are up there with the best. All hail the new crown-prince of burgers!

Hagavagninn



Hagavagninn received a lot of attention when national pop icon and hip hop star, Emmsjé Gauti, announced that he, along with a consortium of restraunteers, was taking on the old hot dog stand by Vesturbæjarlaug and turning it into a smash burger sensation. Today the restaurant is in the ownership of just two of these founders; Rákel Þórhallsdóttir and Jóhann Guðlaugsson.

SB: Hagavagninn were the first to introduce smash style burgers to Iceland. When they first opened, they were sensational burgers indeed. But our recent visit let me



down hard. The buns were crumbly, the meat dry. Even the caramelised onions on the #2 couldn't make up for the lacklustre affair. That being said, the vegan burger picked up the slack. The soy patty is a nice alternative to bean-based ones and the savoury notes play off well with the pickled onions and gherkins. I really hope this was a one-off and that they can bring back their heyday glory.

VG: Hagavagninn had an incredible start in 2018 as a casual burger joint located perfectly between Kaffi Vest and the pool of Vesturbær. In the beginning, they offered playful burgers and made sure to offer something simple, yet satisfying for meat-eaters, as well as the growing population that chooses vegan burgers.

We tried out Börger #2 as well as Vegan Börger #1, and added the vegan fries.

To start with the meat burger, the bread was slightly dry but within the margin in my opinion. The beef was soft under the tooth but a bit dry as well. What I always love about the burgers at Hagavagninn is the balance of the sauce and the toppings. Today the burger was slightly off overall, and dare I

say, a little bit forgettable. It obviously needed some attention to detail.

The same went for the vegan burger, although it was a little better executed and the vegan patty was tastier than the meat. This might sound like a trivial matter but it has to be said: the burgers did not have the consistency we hoped for. When it came to the spicy fries, they were a clumsy letdown, desperately calling out for some seasoning.

Búllan



Búllan, or The Burger Joint, is one of the most established burger places in Iceland. We could say with good conscience that the place is like the McDonalds of Iceland; just

much better. But there is a twist. A political twist.

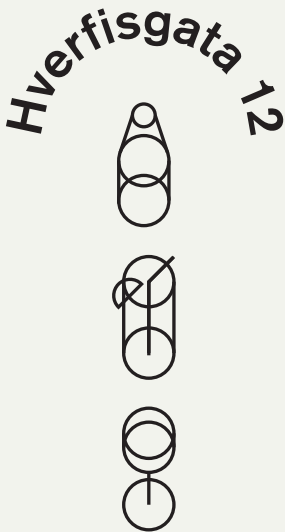
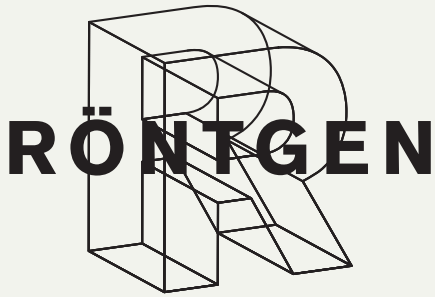
SB: We were honestly on the fence about Búllan since news broke out about the original founder's misogynistic, sexist texts fetishizing Asian women were leaked. We are also not sure if he is still involved with the burger chain. If he isn't, we recommend the steak burger for a good ol' fashioned American classic. The Geirsgata location is charming and dive-bar like and the service is always warm and attentive. No matter how full the place is, they always take their time with your orders, an often overlooked aspect of service in local restaurants. If Tommi is still involved, then vote with your wallet and maybe rethink that burger.

VG: Now, the first rule here is that you have to pay for your meal yourself. Do not, under any circumstances allow Tommi, (Tómas A. Tómasson, MP for the People's Party) to pay for the dinner, or he might be under the odd misunderstanding that you are a prostitute who wants to have sex with him. Paying for sex and paying for dinner is essentially the same in his mind, according to an interview with him at Vísir.is

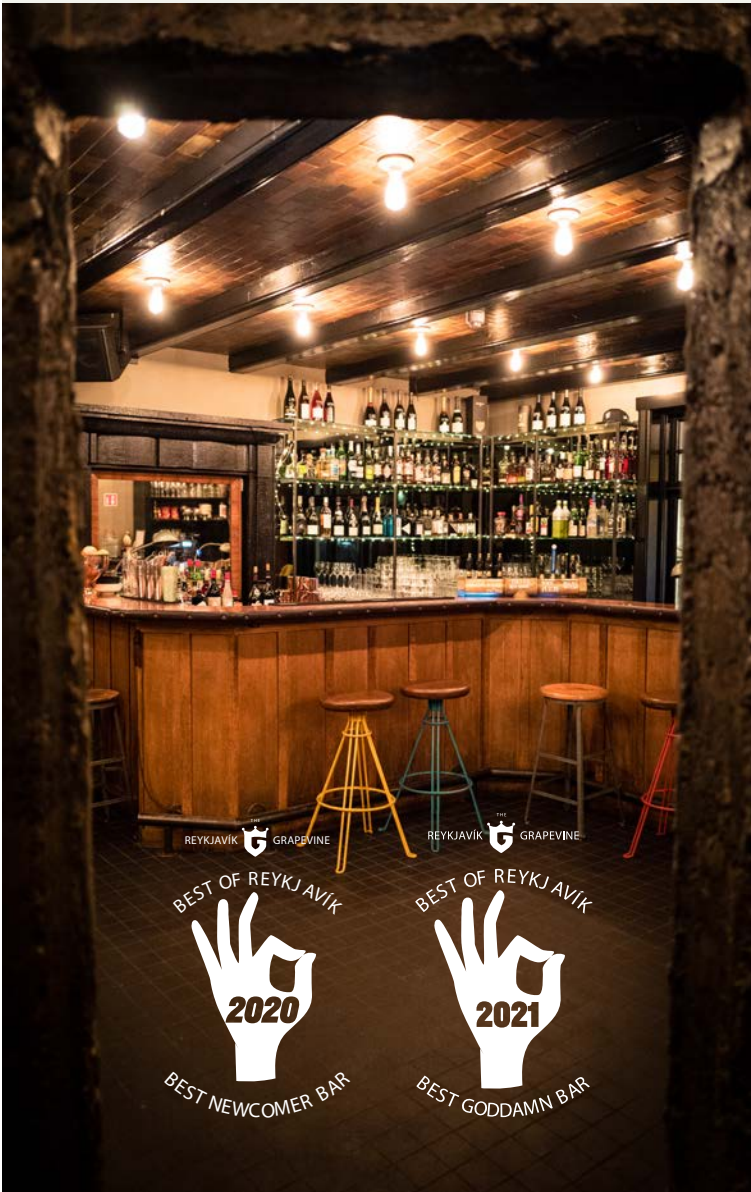
Tommi is the founder of Búllan, although he seems busy at the parliament these days, mostly defending this nasty scandal of dehumanizing Thai women who may have been prostitutes. With this in mind, we decided to keep Búllan in for now, simply because Búllan is one of the most solid burger joints in Iceland. But it's only fair that you know where we are coming from, and that you, dear reader, are aware of this.

In short, nothing has changed when it comes to Búllan. The burgers are solid and surprisingly consistent and the staff are wonderful. If you're looking for a burger that will keep you satisfied, but won't rock your boat, this will be it. You won't be disappointed—not by the burgers at least. The only question is if you still have any appetite, knowing about the scandal with Tommi. Well, that's up to you. For us, it left a bitter aftertaste.

🍷



Happy hour / 4–7pm
Beer / Wine / Cocktails



Witch Hunt

The history of witchcraft in Iceland is a far cry from Harry Potter

Words: **Josie Anne Gaitens** Photos: **Josie Anne Gaitens & Art Bicnick**



Distance from Reykjavik:
232 kilometres

Accommodation provided by:
holmavikhouse.is

Car provided by:
gocarrental.is

Witchcraft and wizardry have been the subject of fascination for centuries—just look at the success of a certain magical franchise written by She Who Must Not Be Named. But in the past, the relationship between everyday folk and the dark arts was less millennials running around in Hogwarts jumpers, more townsfolk suffering from mass hysteria and burning their neighbours.

While locations like Salem in the US have long been notorious, in recent years other countries have been sheepishly stepping forward to acknowledge their pasts. Only last month, Scotland's First Minister issued a formal apology for the execution of around 2,500 people convicted of witchcraft between 1563 and 1736.

Iceland is not excluded from this ugly history. But while there are similarities between what happened here and the mass witch hunts that swept across Northern Europe in the 16th-18th centuries, the Icelandic situation had some strange and noticeable differences. To learn more about all things magical, we decided to pay a visit to the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery & Witchcraft.

A sleepy seaside town

Hólmavík is a small fishing village located in the eastern part of the West-fjords. Although more accessible than some other towns in the region, in the midst of the snowiest winter in recent years getting there is still an endeavour. Nevertheless, we were greeted by glorious sunshine on arrival, belying the area's dark past.

The museum sits on the town's main street and is unmissable—painted black, of course, and due to the weather, decked with a row of deadly-looking icicles. Slightly apprehensively, we headed inside, only to be greeted by a blast of warm air, the smell of delicious food, and a cheery hello. Turns out, in addition to being an informative centre for learning about Icelandic history, the museum also operates a cosy cafe. Somewhat caught off guard, but massively relieved to not be instantly murdered by a warlock, we made our way to the exhibition.

Burned alive

The first exhibit is simply a map of Iceland, with red dots denoting where witchcraft trials took place. Just over 200 dots adorn the map, starkly showing the extent of the mis-directed fear and madness that drove people to accuse their fellow townspeople of sorcery.

What sets Iceland apart from most other countries, however, is the gender of the individuals accused, and the method of dealing with the supposed sorcerers. The vast majority of those charged, and killed, for witchcraft in Iceland were men; dark magic was far less associated with women here. And while many nations dealt with witches by drowning them, Icelanders apparently came to the grim conclusion that the only safe sorcerer was a burnt sorcerer. At least 21 people were burned alive for their supposed crimes, with others being sentenced to banishment, which was almost worse. The

exiled had to live alone in the wilds of Iceland, and if they attempted to return or sought help they could be killed on sight. The waist-deep snow outside was a bleak reminder of the impossibility of this situation.

Necropants

By far the most famous exhibit in the Sorcery & Witchcraft museum, and perhaps of any museum in Iceland, are the necropants. They take pride of place, beautifully lit behind a glass door, in all their horrific, hairy glory. Luckily, for those who are unable to make the visit, the museum provides detailed instructions on how to create your own.

Firstly, the sorcerer must make a pact with a living man to make him into skin trousers after his death. Apologies to those of you who've already murdered your unsuspecting victim, but let this be a lesson to always read the full instructions before you start a complex spell. Only once your sinister skin-graft buddy kicks the bucket can you finally remove his leg skin, making sure to avoid holes—other than those that nature intended. The museum assures that once you step into your new pants, they will immediately 'become one with you'—but unfortunately the work is not yet done. The

last task on the list is to steal a coin from a poor widow on a Holy day. Pop that in the handy... purse, let's say, that comes pre-installed in your trousers, and legend says you will never find it empty again.

Rune-ing a good day out

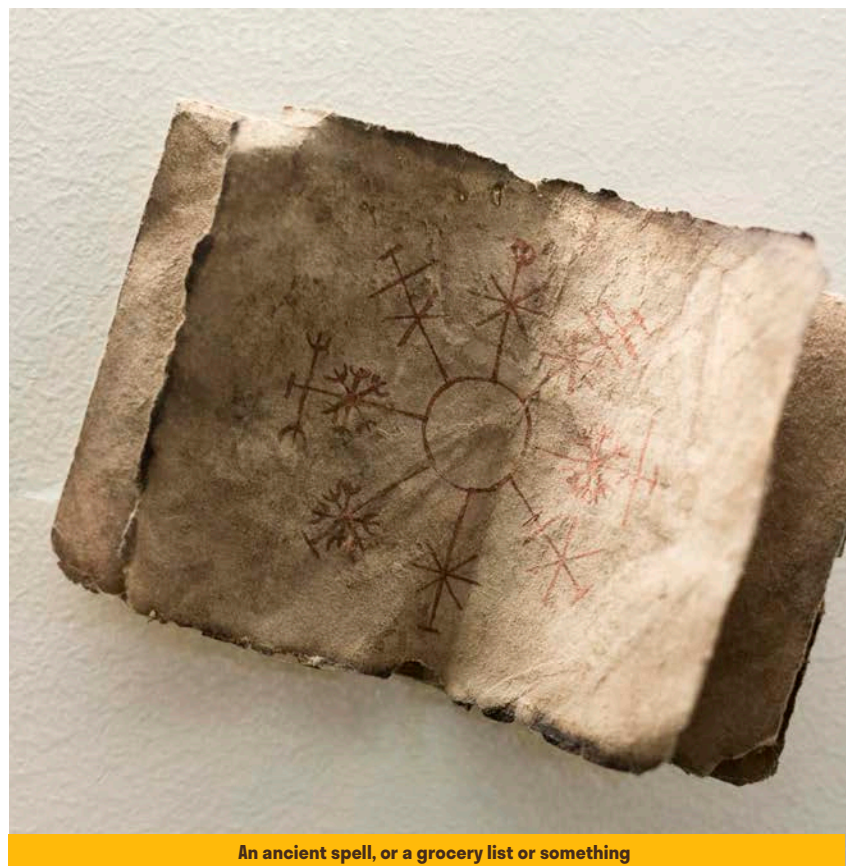
If other people's skin isn't for you, the Sorcery & Witchcraft museum has plenty more to offer. Upstairs there is an extensive collection of Icelandic runes, including those to inspire love and to reveal a ghost. The delicate, spidery markings of the original runes are nothing like the modern derivatives re-designed to be sold to tourists, and are fascinating to see in person. And although most of the information panels are in Icelandic, there are well-written guide books in English and a variety of other languages, making the exhibits accessible to visitors.

Despite most of the events catalogued in the museum having taken place more than 400 years ago, the exhibits are a good reminder of the harm that can be caused by disinformation and fear. Around the world, people are still being killed for supposed witchcraft. At the end of the day, it's not sorcery we need to fear, but our own human nature. ✨

Support the Grapevine!
View this QR code in your phone camera to visit our tour booking site



Hólmavík looking deceptively pretty



An ancient spell, or a grocery list or something



Which 2022 Eurovision Entry Are You?

Don't blame us—the stars don't lie

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine

The 2022 Eurovision finals will be held on May 14th. This also happens to be municipal election night in Iceland, but you likely either don't know or don't care enough about the individual candidates to know which one your sign represents. And who can blame you, when Eurovision looms, like a planet-sized disco ball about to slam into the Earth?

Cancer



You are The Rasmus, and their song Jezebel, representing Finland. Much like The Rasmus at Eurovision, you've got people asking "Whoa., wait, what? The guys who did In The Shadows like in 2003? Holy crap he's still wearing feathers in his hair, too!" The past may cast a long shadow, but remember: it's never too late to start living in the future. You probably won't regret it.

Leo



You are Systur, and their song Með Hækkandi Sól, representing Iceland. There's a lot more to you than originally meets the eye (or ear), and all your best treasures

are there waiting for anyone with the wherewithal to look for them. Don't settle for less; stand by those who stand by you.

Virgo



You are Monika Liu, and her song Sentimentai, representing Lithuania. You've got character, you've got style, you've got the je ne sais quoi. You might not win any popularity contests but that hardly matters. You are your own creature, and you should hold your head high.

Libra



You are Sheldon Riley, and his song Not The Same, representing Australia. A sweeping ballad,

emotive and sincere, best appreciated by those of discerning taste. A true gem.

Scorpio



You are Sam Ryder, and his song SPACE MAN, representing the UK. And just like the UK when it comes to Eurovision, despite having so much historical potential, you can't seem to help but offer your very worst when it comes down to it. We know you're capable of great things, Scorpio. Don't be afraid to let go, take a risk, and let the best of you shine through.

Sagittarius



You are Emma Muscat, and her song I Am What I Am, representing Malta. Fiercely proud, individualistic, striking your own way no matter what others may say. Don't let the naysayers get you down; you are a pure bright star in the darkest night. In our hearts, you've already won.

Capricorn



You are Kalush Orchestra, and their song Stefania, representing Ukraine. Like the song, you represent stark contrasts between the

traditional and the modern. Just be sure you don't let these contrasts clash too badly, or it might be null points for you.

Aquarius



You are LUM!X, and their song Halo, representing Austria. You like to stick with the classics—good ol' fashioned, easily digestible Europop. Make time to divert from the norm, Aquarius, unless you want to be utterly forgettable.

Pisces



You are S10, and their song, De Diepte, representing the Netherlands. You have a subtle, perhaps even dark energy, belying secrets that run deep in your emotional landscape. Let your guard down now and then so people can get to know the real you.

Aries



You are Subwoolfer, and their song Give That Wolf A Banana, representing Norway. Seemingly normal at first glance, the more anyone listens to you, the stranger you seem. You're not without charm, though, so don't compromise your vibe. Live your truth.

Taurus



You are Ronela Hataji, and her song Sekret, representing Albania. Like Albania, you consistently show the world that you stay true to your roots, but are perfectly capable of adapting with the times. Maintaining that balance may be difficult, so hang in there. No matter what, you'll have lived consistently.

Gemini



You are Cornelia Jakobs, and her song Hold Me Closer, representing Sweden. It's clear you're often afraid to take risks, opting instead to play it safe. The danger of this is that a safe life is hardly one worth remembering. Bad girls go to heaven and all that. Step outside of your comfort zone and try something weird for a change!

WELL, YOU ASKED



A Worthy Sacrifice

Words: Alice Poggio

Can you guarantee that the weather will be good when we're in Iceland?

Of course, it couldn't be simpler, here there are plenty of people that could provide you with such a service. The question is: how much does it mean to you? You could have a small ritual, carve some rune sticks and call it a day, and that would probably send more of a "please, could we have nice weather?" sort of whiny message, and the gods will see what they can do. The other option could be to sacrifice your oldest child to Þór, the god of thunder. In that case sunshine will be guaranteed.

Where can I see penguins?

Ya can't. Not here at least. You probably could have seen a distant relative of theirs in the mid-19th century. The great auk, or Pinguinus impennis, a flightless bird, that bred on rocky ground, and hunted fish. As you may have gathered, killing and sacrificing was all the rage back then, so yes, they're all dead.

The sailors who discovered the penguins we all know and love today named them so because of their resemblance to the great auk. The auks were initially hunted for their meat, but as their numbers dwindled, their value grew, and soon enough museums and private collectors were willing to pay considerable amounts of money for a specimen. The last couple is said to have been killed in 1844 on Eldey. On the edge of the Reykjanes peninsula, at Valahnúkamöl, you can find a five foot tall sculpture of the great auk as a memorial to the species that was driven to extinction.

EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

ON THE ULTIMATE FLYING RIDE

FlyOver ICELAND

OPEN EVERY DAY | flyovericeland.com

DON'T QUOTE ME ON THAT



“I was always dancing. Whenever the opportunity came, whether it was a festival outside, or a birthday, or at home or just whenever there was a dance scenario, I, you know, I got to it!”

Luis Lucas AntóniÓ Cabambe, a 22-year old semi-professional shares his love for dancing. **P8**



“I felt like we never stopped.”

Sindri Már Sigfússon reflects on Seabear's first album in over a decade. **P18**




“We allow restaurants to keep track of their distributors, break down their menus, and track their stock.”

Renata Bade Barajas, Co-Founder and CEO on innovation behind GreenBytes **P23**

One of 25 Wonders of the World

Blue Lagoon Water is unlike any other water on the planet. Born deep underground where freshwater and ocean water converge in volcanic aquifers, this natural marvel is rich in silica, algae, and minerals. These elements give the water its cleansing, healing, nourishing powers—bringing radiance to the mind and body.

Discover the water. Experience the wonder.



BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

bluelagoon.com



GRÓÐURHÚSIÐ

THE GREENHOUSE

Hotel | Food hall | Shops | Café | Bar
Ice Cream Parlor | Foodmarket | Tour Desk

HVERAGERDI • SOUTH COAST ICELAND